Macapagal orders telecom firms to interconnect

STORY ON PAGE A2

Gloria target of dirty trick operators

By Carlito Pablo

SOMEBODY'S pulled a trick on President Macapagal-Arroyo—and it's down and dirty.

Yesterday, three days before she is to deliver her second State of the Nation Address, Malacañang reporters received cards supposedly mailed by

GLORIA/A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Cory feels sorry for Gloria

By N. Bordadora

THIS, too, shall pass.

That's a piece of consolation offered by former President Corazon Aquino to President Macapagal-

CORY/A18

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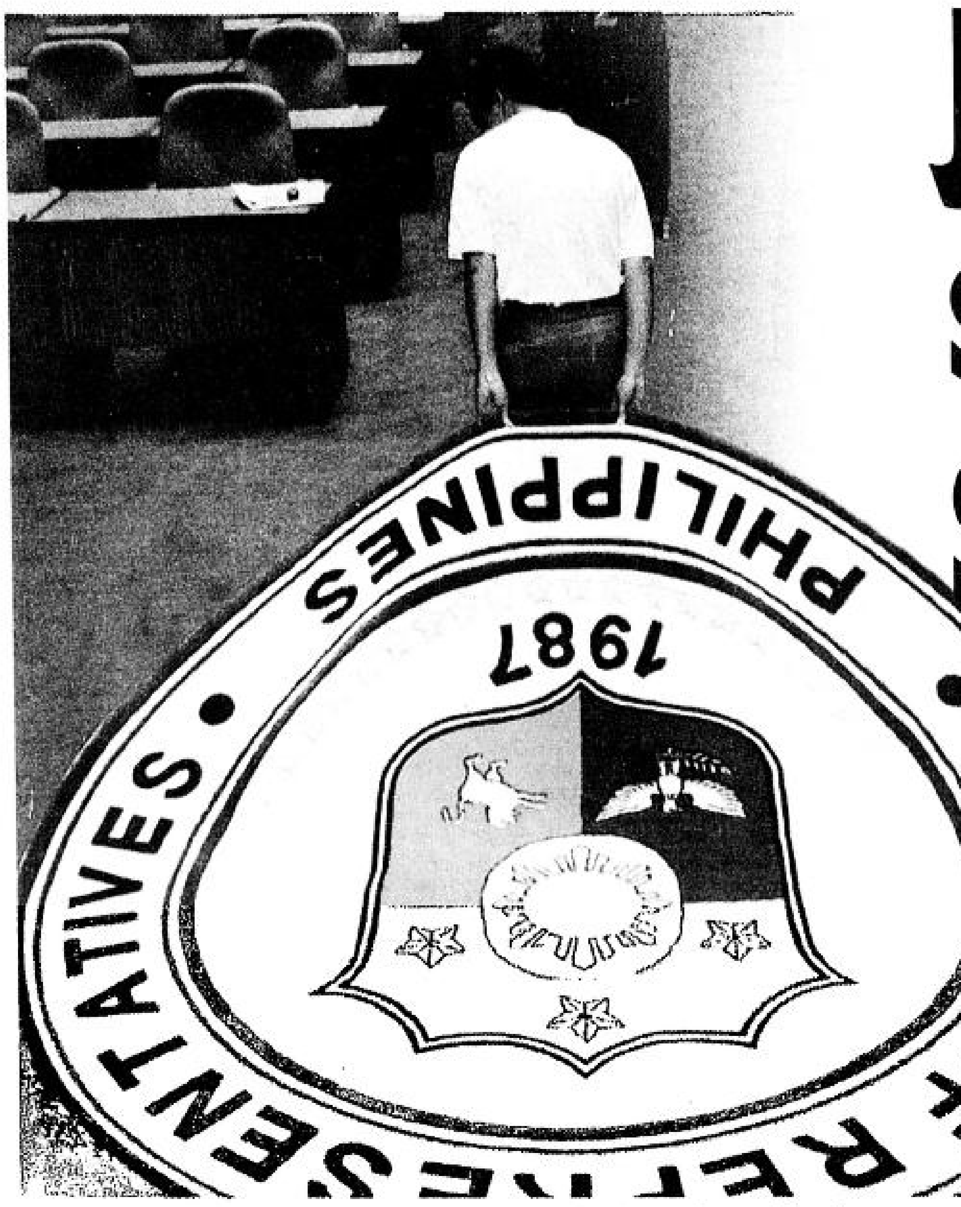

THE STATE of preparation is in full swing at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City, where President Macapagal will deliver her Sona on July 22, the start of the second regular session of the 12th Congress. JOAN BONDOC

Jawo, Sotto set to break Senate tie

By Carlito Pablo

IT'S A DONE deal.

Opposition Sen. Robert Jaworski is "going to be voting with the administration party," the INQUIRER learned yesterday from a highly reliable source in the Palace.

Which means Jaworski will break the 12-12 impasse in the Senate on July 22 when the 12th Congress starts its second regular session.

The administration party is on a roll. Jaworski's father-in-law, administration Sen. Ramon Revilla arrived yesterday from his medical checkup in the United States.

The administration also has another opposition senator in the wings to gain a solid majority in the Senate. And it is not Sen. Blas Ople who has said that he wants to vote with the opposition bloc in the Senate before even considering the post of foreign secretary once it is formally offered by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President is set to announce today the appointment of opposition Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III as overall consultant in the government's anti-illegal drugs campaign.

When contacted by the INQUIRER, Sotto confirmed his appointment and acceptance. But he's not resigning from the Senate.

"The President's invitation did not require Senator Sotto to give up his seat in the Senate," the source told the INQUIRER.

"He's not leaving his party. Not yet. Timing is important," the Palace source added. But other INQUIRER sources speculated that Sotto's presidential appointment is a prelude to his joining the ruling Lakas-NUCD chaired by President Macapagal.

Sotto and Jaworski are stalwarts of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) headed by Sen. Edgardo Angara.

JAWO/A19

THE WINNING courtship of Senators Robert Jaworski and Vicente Sotto III leads to a break in the Senate stalemate. ERIK ARAZAS

Fil-Ams, mad scientists set to join protest marches

By Agnes E. Donato, Carlito Pablo and Christine Avendaño

FILIPINO-AMERICANS and Filipino scientists will join the protest rallies when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address on Monday, the groups Migrante International and Agham said in separate statements yesterday.

In a press conference at the Migrante office in Quezon City, representatives of US-based militant groups said they would call the President's attention to the human rights violations being committed against Filipinos abroad.

"Fil-Ams from all over the United States are here to participate in the Sona rally," said Freedom Sivam, spokesperson of the Out Now! Coalition opposed to the US military presence in the Philippines.

Dr. Giovanni Tapang, Agham chair and a professor at the University of the Philippines, said scientists, technologists and engineers would march in protest of Ms Macapagal's "failure to increase the budget for research and development and science education."

"We can no longer ignore the current economic and political crisis infecting our country," he said. "This is why we will go out of our research laboratories and offices to voice our concerns, along with that of other disgruntled sectors."

But the President is concentrating on other things, specifically the "declaration of war against all forms of criminality, all forms of corruption and all forms of anomalies including smuggling," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

In an interview over radio station dzRH, Bunye said Ms Macapagal's speech on Monday would feature less of the "nitty-gritty" concerning her administration's accomplishments of the targets she set in her maiden Sona in July last year.

FIL-AMS/A19

Puno's former aide new anti-drug czar

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A FORMER aide of former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno has been named anti-drug czar.

Anselmo Avenido, who served as interior undersecretary under Puno and then under Interior Secretary Joey Lina, will head the newly formed Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA). He retired as a three-star police general last Jan. 24.

President Macapagal-Arroyo first announced her choice of anti-drug czar during a dinner Thursday with executives of RMN led by its president, Eric Canoy.

She named Efren Fernandez, who was chief of the Narcotics Group of the Philippine National Police when he retired last month, as Avenido's deputy.

"(Avenido) was an academi-

PUNO'S/A19

San Beda honors KL justice in Anwar case

MALAYSIAN Chief Justice Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdullah received an honorary law doctorate from San Beda College's law school yesterday, nine days after he rejected former Deputy Premier Anwar Ibrahim's appeal against a corruption conviction.

Anwar accused the three-judge panel of Malaysia's Federal Court of cowardice and doing the bidding of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, whom he accuses of orchestrating a conspiracy to keep him locked up to prevent a challenge for power.

Dzaiddin received a citation and diploma from the 101-year-old San Beda College in the school's church in recognition of his work as president of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Law Association.

SAN BEDA/A4

Supreme Court scraps golf tourney for judges

By Donna S. Cueto

"WHAT'S happening to the judiciary? It has not yet recovered from a crisis of confidence and already the (Supreme Court) administrator, Presbiterio J. Velasco Jr., is spearheading a golf tournament at Wack Wack . . . to help the Philippine Judges Association realize its aims to 'develop and maintain the independence and protect the integrity of the judiciary,'" the letter to the editor read.

The letter, which appeared in the July 18 issue of the INQUIRER, caught the attention of acting Chief Justice Josue N. Bellosillo.

HIGH/A4

P100-M DRUG BUST: President Macapagal visits a shabu lab raided by the police at Varsity Village, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. She congratulates Interior Secretary Lina, PNP chief Ebdane, Quezon City Mayor Belmonte and NCRPO chief Edgardo Agilpay.

Abused maids fight back in Jordan, HK, NY

By Christine Herrera
in Manila
and Rita Villadiego
contributor, in New York

FROM Hong Kong to Jordan to New York, Filipino domestic helpers who are being maltreated in one form or another by their employers are learning to fight back.

In Hong Kong, Beatriz Madriaga Cabanilla, 30, sued her former employer for discrimination after she was allegedly fired for having a deformed hand.

Cabanilla claimed in a suit she filed last Thursday that her ex-boss "expressed revulsion" after seeing her three-fingered left hand on her first day of work, the South China Morning Post reported.

Cabanilla said she had tried to show her employer that she could perform her duties despite the disability but was fired two

ABUSED/A19

Second FRONT PAGE

FASTER SERVICE, LOWER CHARGES

GMA orders phone firms to link up

By Carlito Pablo and Abigail L. Ho

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is set to issue an executive order that would require all telecommunications companies to interconnect with each other to drive down the cost of telephone calls.

The move, however, is sure to revive the telecoms scandal that hit the administration one year ago.

In that controversy, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was accused of asking for P40 million to work for the rescission of the President's veto of congressional franchises awarded to an earlier self-proclaimed proponent of interconnection.

The proponent, controversial businessman Pacifico "Pic" Marcelo III, had been granted by Congress franchises for his Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc.

PCCI was to operate a clearinghouse through which all telecom firms would have to connect for a fee, while APC was going to construct a wireless telecommunications system nationwide.

In one of her first official acts, President Macapagal vetoed in April 2001 both franchises on the ground they would have given Marcelo's companies a monopoly of the telecoms business, as all phone firms would have had to go through his companies and pay a fee.

The controversial Marcelo had claimed the interconnection of telecommunications companies was his "brainchild."

Marcelo had also charged that Ms Macapagal had demanded from him the controlling shares of his two firms in exchange for rescinding her vetoes.

The controversy became the subject of a Senate inquiry and a report has yet to be issued on the investigation.

Presented to Cabinet

In an official Malacañang statement, the President said the interconnection among public telecommunications entities (PTEs) would result in lower rates for consumers.

She said she had ordered presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz Jr. to draft the new executive order that would amend EO 95 issued by then President Fidel Ramos, which prescribed policy guidelines for the compulsory interconnection of telecom firms.

The Palace statement said a draft EO was actually presented to the Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

The draft seeks to "enhance the existing policy of interconnection to ensure PTEs could access the services as well as the subscribers of other PTEs at an acceptable quality of service and reasonable cost."

"The EO would also stress the need to ensure that interconnection would not result in unfair and unreasonable pricing arrangements to the detriment of the consumers," the statement said.

Landline and cellular phone service providers would now have to interconnect their networks for their respective subscribers to be able to call each other.

Under the current guidelines on interconnection, National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio Jr. lamented that it took a long time for telecom firms to link up with each other, to the detriment of their subscribers.

Access charges

Firms also usually did not agree on "access charges" or rates paid for the use of each other's networks. For a phone call to be completed, it has to go from the caller's network to the receiver's network.

The access charges depended on what the two interconnecting carriers agreed on. Part of what a consumer pays every month covers these access charges.

The new EO would ensure that a caller does not have to wait very long to be connected to a person who subscribes to a different carrier. It would also guard against excessive access charges.

"The amendments to EO 59 would help facilitate interconnection. Under the amendments, the NTC could intervene without having to wait 90 days—no ifs, no buts. The carriers would have to interconnect even if they still hadn't agreed on access charges," Rio said.

Bilateral act

But Globe Telecom Inc. assistant vice president for regulatory affairs Froilan Castelo said in an interview that all provisions to be included in the new EO should be in consonance with Republic Act 7925, or the Public Telecommunications Policy Act of the Philippines.

"RA 7925 defines interconnection as a 'bilateral' act that requires negotiating parties to agree with each other on all terms before a final decision could be made. It should be a voluntary act," he said.

Immediate interconnection without settling the amounts to be charged would be difficult for the parties involved, he said.

Other carriers were unavailable for comment or declined to talk until they saw a copy of the draft EO.

Aside from immediate interconnection, Rio said the new EO would not allow telecommunications firms to cut off interconnection without NTC approval.

"Right now, some of them just cut each other off without seeking NTC approval. This usually happens when one firm fails to remit access charges to another firm, or when two companies can't agree on the amount they should pay each other," Rio said.

"These amendments will just be temporary measures while we're waiting for the Kintanar bill or the interconnection bill to be passed by Congress," Rio said.

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Gloria admits talking to Ople about DFA

By Christine O. Avendaño

SHE did have an "informal" talk recently with Sen. Blas Ople about the stewardship of the Department of Foreign Affairs, President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted yesterday.

During lunch with Congress reporters, the President said she met with the opposition senator after his return from the United States early this month.

She said Malacañang's proposal for Ople to head the DFA was discussed, but she reiterated there was no formal offer made to the senator.

"We talked about it but not explicitly," was how Ms. Macapagal put it. She did not elaborate.

She confirmed that she had offered Ople the job in December last year when she and then DFA secretary Teofisto Guingona were having "policy differences."

Speaking at a Senate press conference, Ople was just as circumspect. He said he was pondering the administration's overtures, although there was still no offer to him.

Government emissaries had been asking him to join the Cabinet, Ople said, among them presidential consultant Dante Ang, who "personally" met with him in the US.

Tonight, he said, he would consult with leaders of his province, Bulacan, who were against his taking the DFA post. However, the solon said his personal mail was running three to one in favor of accepting the post once an offer was made.

In the meantime, Ople volunteered to be a "bridge of reconciliation" between the administration and the opposition. He said he would seriously consider the DFA portfolio only after genuine unity was achieved in the Senate.

He called for an end to the "politics of gridlock," deploring the "chronic stalemate" not only in the Senate but in other areas of government and public institutions.

Ople, current chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, also said there was no need to submit the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) between the Philippines and the United States to the Senate for ratification.

This view was opposed to that of his colleague, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who earlier urged President Macapagal to submit the document for Senate scrutiny.

Ople said the pact had been crafted well within the framework of the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951 and the Visiting Forces Agreement of 1999. He stressed that the agreement should be signed in time for the visit of US State Secretary Colin Powell early next month.

Congress reopens on Monday, with leaders of the two sides conducting marathon meetings on how to iron out differences.

Ople, who became Senate president pro tempore after a "coup" by opposition senators last June 3, earlier offered the post back to Sen. Manny Villar, who had held the same position in the administration bloc.

Villar replied that like Ople, he was willing to give up the job if this would bring about cooperation in the Senate.

Last Thursday, Senators Loren Legarda and Aquilino Pimentel followed suit, offering to leave the post of majority floor leader which they both occupied. Yesterday, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay offered the committee on defense and national security to his co-chair, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

Reports persist Sabaya is alive

FORMER senator Ernesto Maceda said yesterday he had "credible" information Adlam Tilao, or Abu Sabaya, erstwhile spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf, was still alive.

"I was given information there have been sightings of Sabaya," Maceda said.

He said he was informed that a contingent of American and Filipino forces "rushed to Zamboanga this morning" to look for Sabaya, who was supposedly killed in a military operation in the sea off Zamboanga last month.

Maceda said his information had come from the "intelligence community of the US."

"They (US officials) are worried because this is no longer an embarrassing situation for the Philippine government alone but for the US as well," Maceda said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, dismissed the reports of Sabaya sightings.

"That's disinformation," the President told Congress reporters at a lunch at Malacañang yesterday.

"You should be surprised if there were no such reports (of Sabaya sightings)," the President said. ***J. Javellana and C. Herrera***

W. Tan dies

WILLIAM Tan, a still-photographer, died of liver cancer on July 19.

Tan was treasurer of the Still Photographers Guild of the Philippines. He is survived by his wife Peachy and children Yan-yan and Basti.

His body lies at the St. Peter's Memorial Chapel on Quezon Ave., Quezon City. He will be buried Tuesday morning, July 22, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

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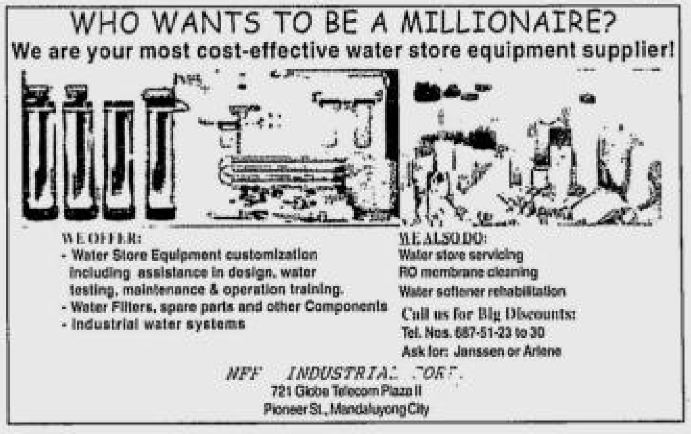
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GMA miffed at airing of Erap 'sona'

By Carlito Pablo

CANDID were the conversations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had with media men on two consecutive days.

She wasn't pleased that the giant Radio Mindanao Network aired live last Thursday ex-President Joseph Estrada's version of the state of the nation.

, Later that same day, she bared her feelings over dinner with RMN executives and staff members at Malacañang.

"You were the only one that aired it," the President teased her guests. With 48 radio stations nationwide, RMN is the biggest radio network in the country.

The network executives pointed out that they had "balanced" the opposition state of the nation address with Malacañang's accomplishment report, "GMA Delivers!" also on Thursday.

RMN anchor Jay Sonsa, who steered the coverage of Estrada's Sona at the Club Filipino in San Juan, did not attend the dinner.

Sonsa had also annotated Estrada's "Ama ng Masa" documentary, which questioned the legitimacy of the Macapagal government. The government stopped the documentary's scheduled showing before May 1 on the ground that the producers did not have the appropriate permit.

President Macapagal will deliver her second Sona on Monday. During lunch at Malacañang yesterday, she reminded a small group of media men of "the responsibility to report the good news, not only the bad." She requested them to be kinder to her administration, "more focused on the positive."

Ms Macapagal complained that a report completed by the House oversight committee on her first state-of-the-nation promises last year had been "taken out of context."

"I was said to have missed my target by one-third. What about the two-thirds?" She said it was like "reporting that a glass is a third empty when, in fact, it's two-thirds full."

Presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs Dodie Limcauco lamented, "During the time of Marcos, the opposition was not allowed (airtime or news space)," he said. "Now we are the ones being shut out." *With Rocky Nazareno*

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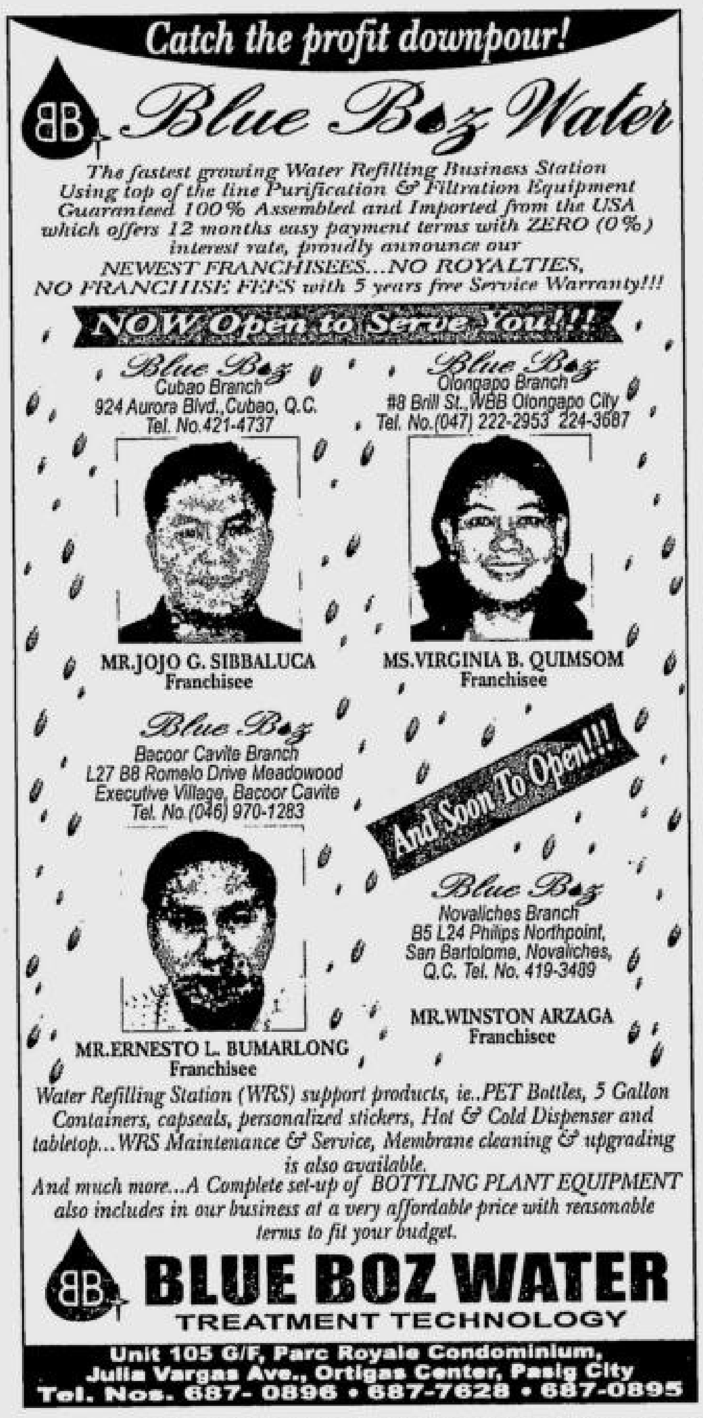
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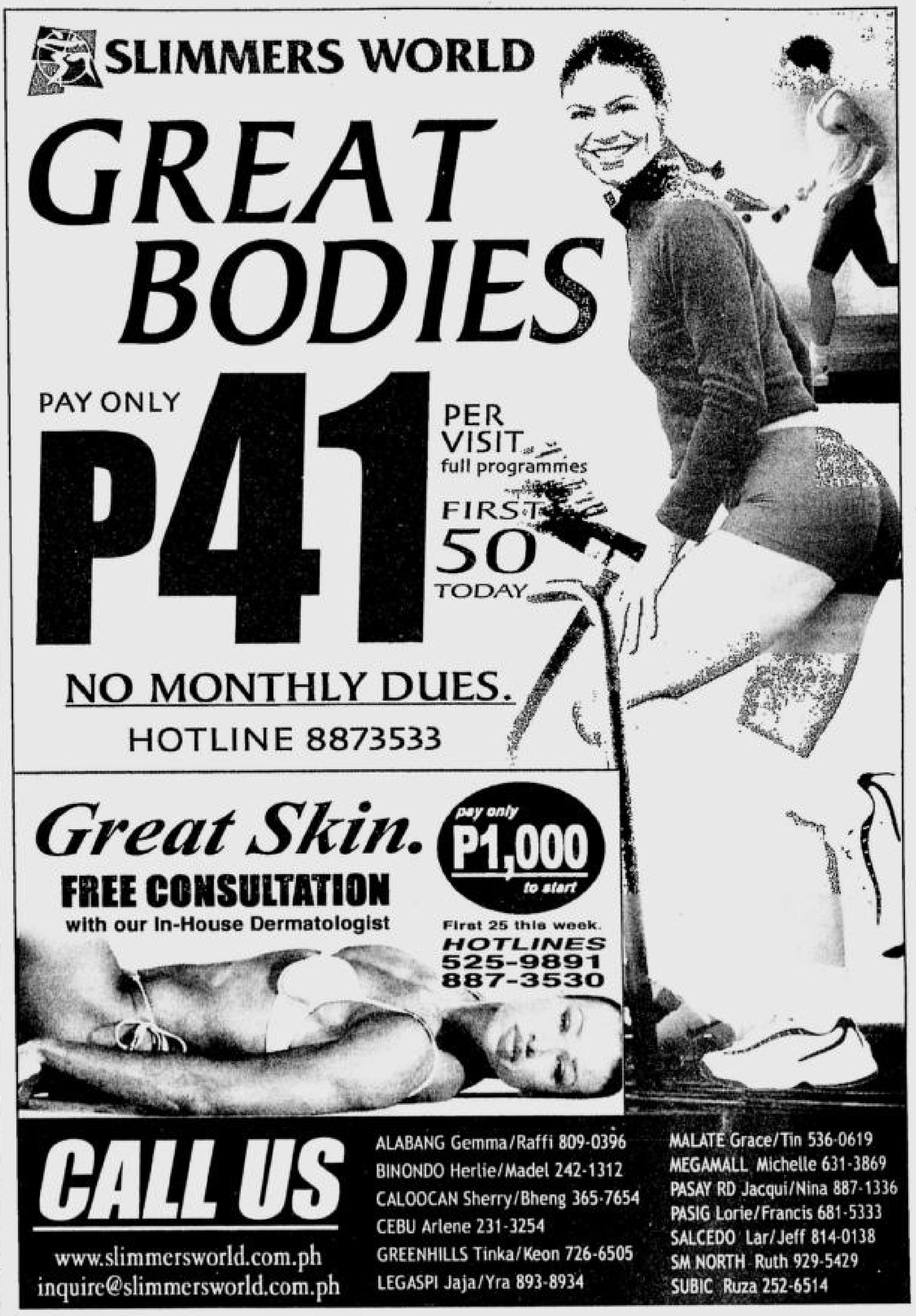
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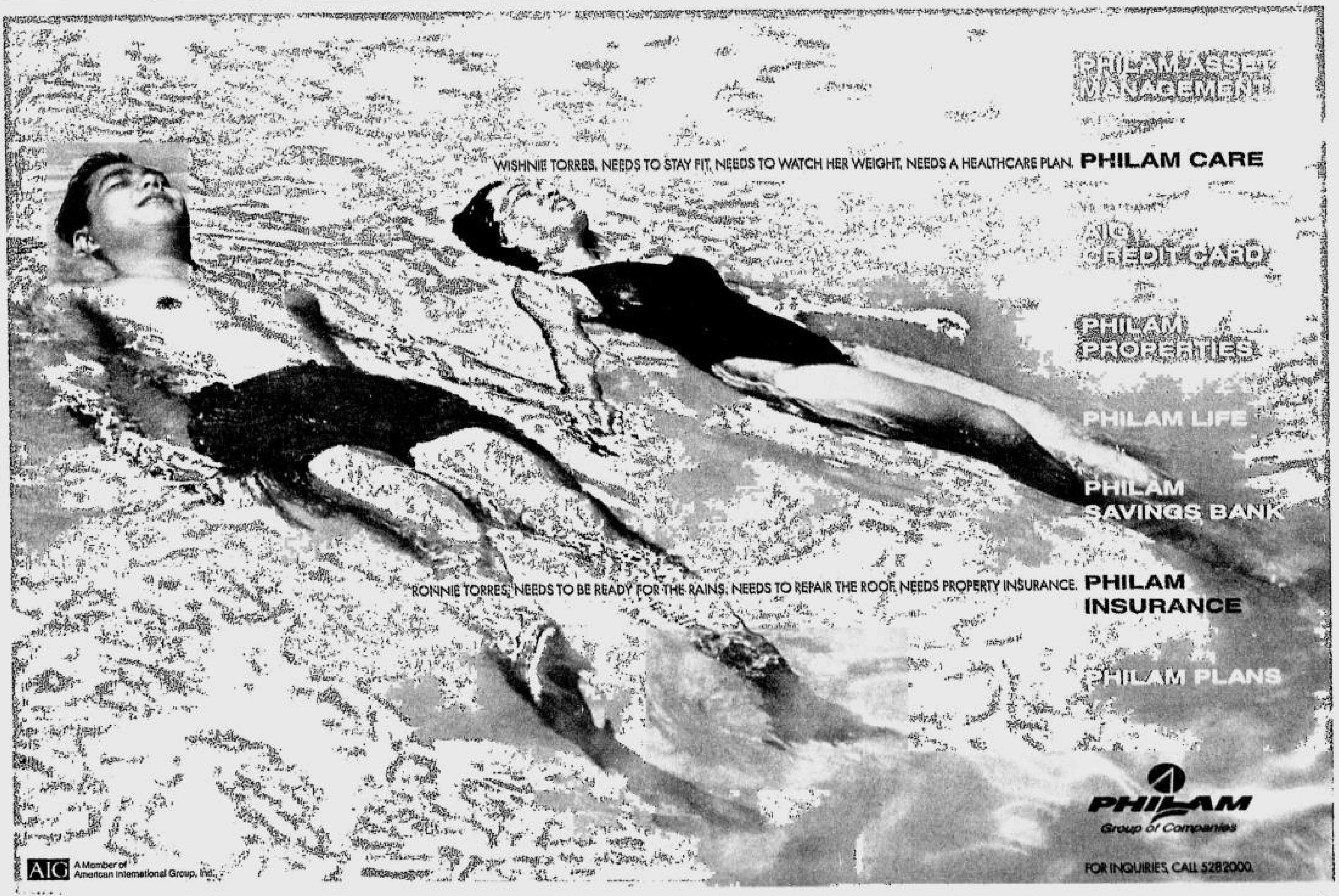
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High court scraps golf tourney for judges

From page A1

The Supreme Court yesterday said that it would order the scrapping of the golf tournament "if it was true that it was being financed or to be financed out of solicitations from law firms, business organizations and businessmen."

The golf tournament at Wack Wack set on Sept. 27, 2002 will supposedly benefit "active and retired members of the judiciary."

The statement from the Supreme Court said that Bellosilo has not yet issued a direct order scrapping the tournament, but was cautioning the judges from pursuing the golf tournament "in light of negative public perception."

"The scheduled tournament has drawn flak from a number of well-meaning citizens, and even from members of the judiciary themselves," said the high court's statement yesterday.

One letter criticizing the golf tournament claimed that Velasco was soliciting the "sponsorship of big firms such as SGV, Accra, Siguion-Reyna and Romulo Mabanta."

Code of Judicial Conduct

The Code of Judicial Conduct provides among others that a judge may "engage in the arts, sports and other special recreational activities" if these do not interfere with the exercise of his or her official functions, the high court statement said.

But Bellosilo, who also chairs the Supreme Court's oversight committee, said that it would be best if the tournament itself would not push through, even if the law did not expressly prohibit it, in light of negative public perception.

He said that the sports activity "may compromise the independence and demean the dignity and integrity of our judges."

"Prudence dictates that the judiciary should refrain from engaging in the golf tournament activity if it will be sponsored by persons or entities that may have cases or official transactions with the courts," Bellosillo said in a statement.

Backsliding

"Besides, we will be backsliding in our serious effort in weeding out undesirables in the judiciary where we have already gained considerable momentum and success," he said.

Bellosillo is the acting Chief Justice of the high court while Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. is recuperating from am operation on his carotid artery last Tuesday. The operation called carotid endarterectomy is a "preventive measure to lower the risk of ischemic strokes" which former President Ramos had also undergone in 1997.

"While the objective to look after the welfare of the members of the judiciary by providing them with 'health care benefits,' etc. may be noble and appears harmless, such an activity may be violative of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act," the letter criticizing the golf tournament that appeared in the INQUIRER read.

"When (Supreme Court administrator) Velasco solicits the sponsorship of big firms such as SGV, Accra, Siguion-Reyna and Romulo Mabanta, he is skating on very thin ice," the letter-writer, Carmelo J. Aquino, said.

He said, "any of these firms would, of course, voluntarily foot the bill if given the chance." But this will not exempt Velasco and the sponsors from liability under the anti-graft and corrupt practices law, he said.

The letter noted that lawyers from the big law firms and executives of top corporations would be "rubbing elbows with members of the judiciary as they play golf."

"I believe the members of the judiciary should not be placed in a position where they are expected to raise funds, especially by soliciting donations from corporations, lawyers and litigants," the letter added.

The high court's statement did not say if it would conduct an investigation on the matter.

San Beda honors . . .

From page A1

Law Dean Virgilio Jara said the decision to confer the degree was made in April, before Dzaiddin and two other justices ruled last week there was no miscarriage of justice in Anwar's corruption trial, for which he is serving a six-year prison term.

Jara said that controversy around the ruling had not affected the decision to confer the degree.

The citation recognized Dzaiddin's "distinguished status" among "legal luminaries" in Southeast Asia and said he made a great commitment to "conflict avoidance and arbitration of legal disputes" in the region.

The Philippines and Malaysia are founding members of the bloc, which includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Anwar will begin a nine-year sentence for a sodomy conviction once the corruption term expires. An appeal in the sodomy case has not yet begun.

US, EU disappointed

The United States and Europenn Union have expressed disappointment at the court's ruling. Washington considers the Anwar trials as unfair and has called him a political prisoner.

The Manila-based Foundation for Worldwide People Power, a democracy advocacy group, headed by Eugenia Duran-Apostol, INQUIRER founding chair, said that the degree was a "mistake that will not easily be forgotten," citing allegations by Malaysian human rights groups that the judiciary lacked "honor, integrity and moral courage."

Dzaiddin refused to be interviewed. In his response after receiving the citation, Dzaiddin said he was privileged to receive the degree, which was conferred last year on former President Corazon Aquino.

Anwar was fired by Mahathir as his deputy in 1998 amid disputes over the Asian economic crisis. He led tens of thousands of people in street demonstrations calling for Mahathir's ouster and was arrested. AP

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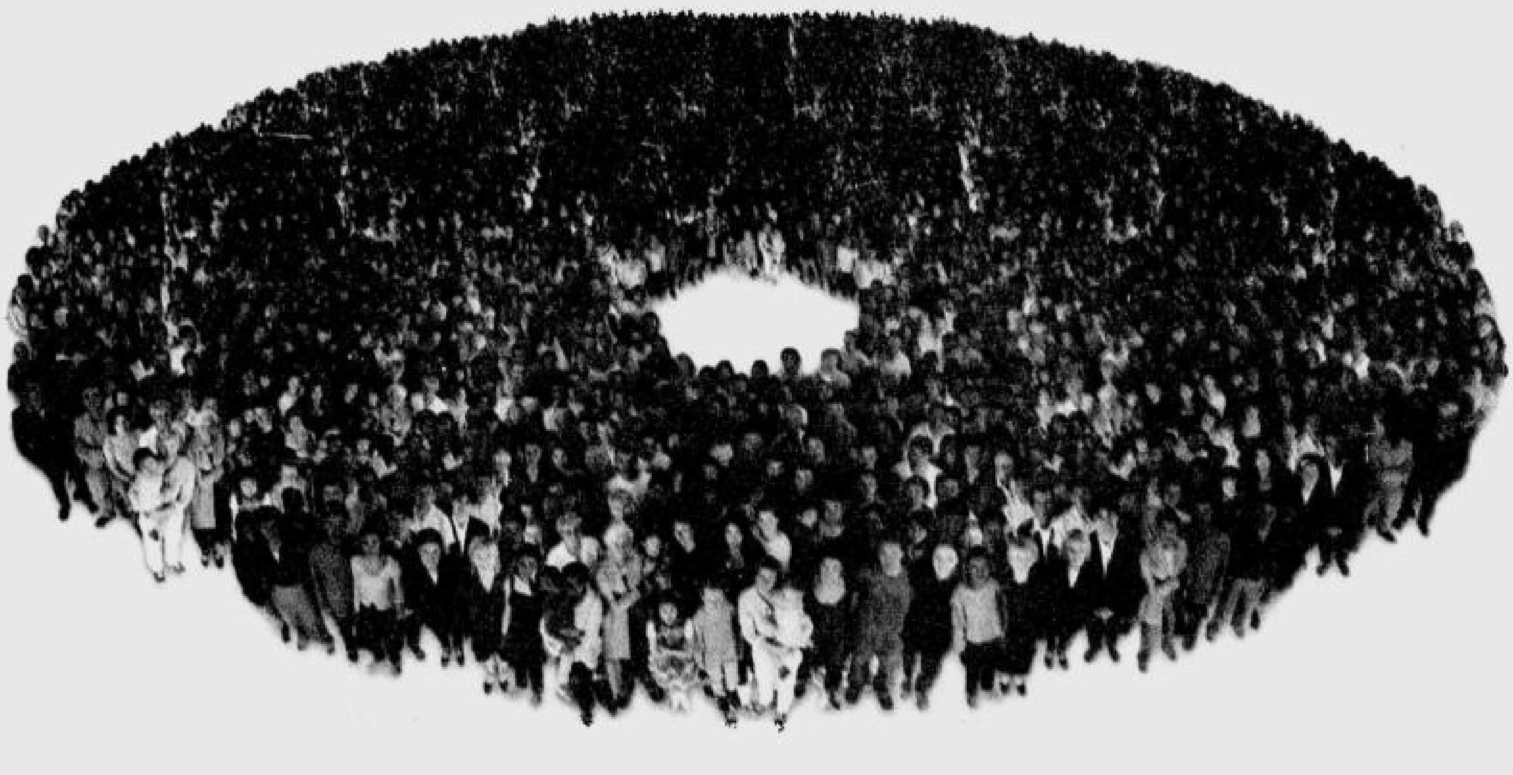

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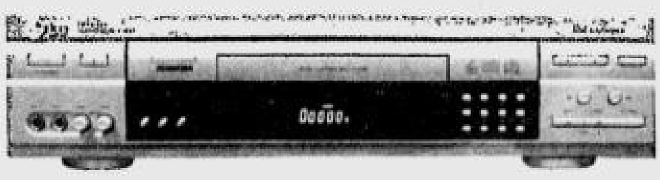

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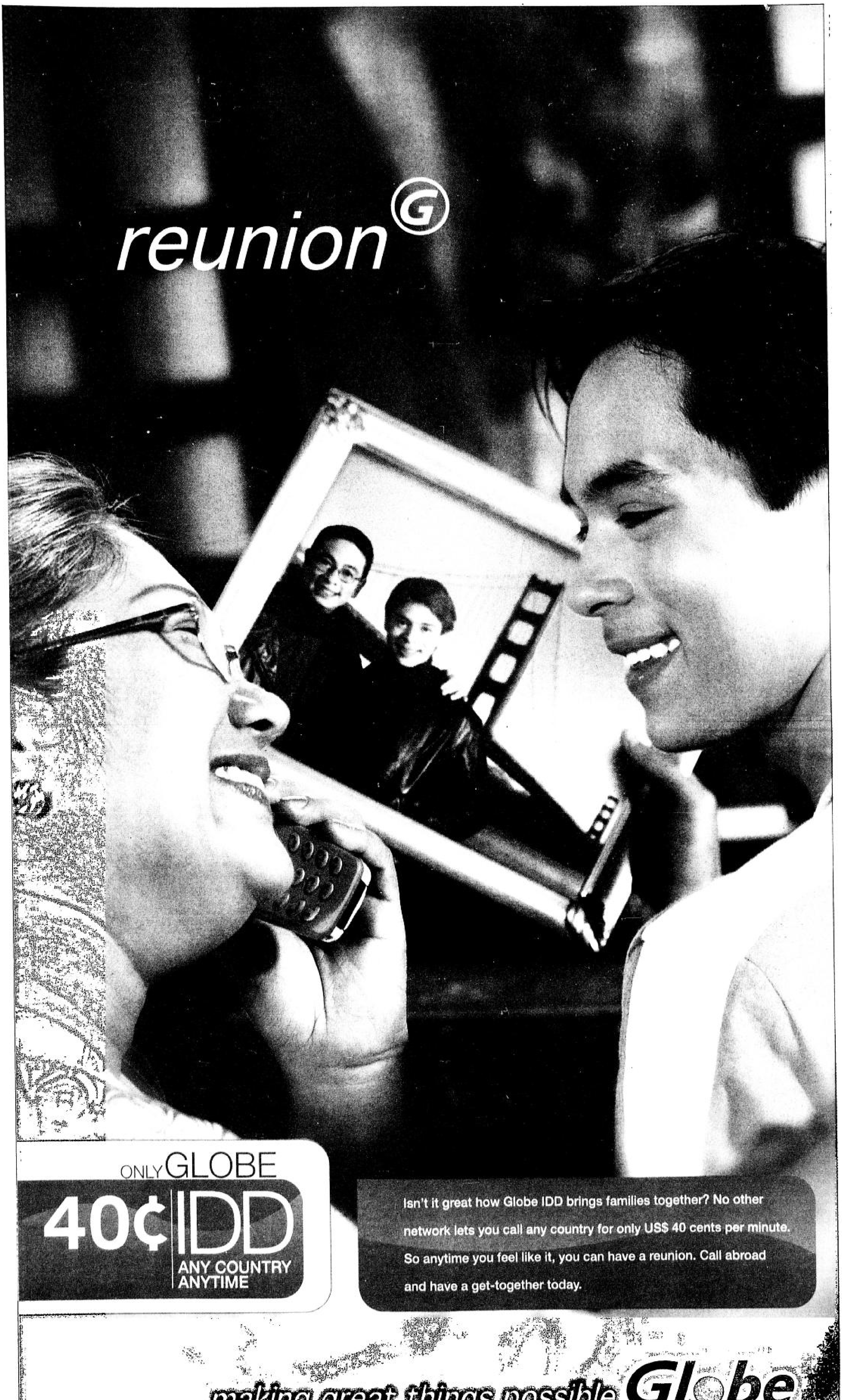
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Sandiganbayan junks Erap travel plea anew

By Volt Contreras

JAILED ex-president Joseph Estrada may be "in (even) better hands" if he were to have the surgery on his arthritic knees in the country instead of the United States.

This was the view of the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court as it rejected for the second time yesterday the deposed leader's request to be allowed to travel to the US for an operation.

"Emotional appeals for justice, while they may wring the heart of the court, cannot justify disregarding the mandate of the law as long as such remains in force," the special division said in denying Estrada's motion for reconsideration.

The motion sought to overturn the Sandiganbayan's June 6 ruling dismissing Estrada's request to be freed to go to California for total knee joint replacement surgery.

Acting Presiding Justice Minita Nazario, the special division chair who penned yesterday's ruling, said the motion could not use the humanitarian grounds argument as if the only way Estrada could obtain safe treatment was to go to the US.

"By no stretch of the imagination can a knee operation in the Philippines be considered 'unhuminatarian' as it has been abundantly established that ours is a country brimming with topnotch surgeons (and) world-class institutions," Nazario said.

She cited in particular St. Luke's Hospital which, as revealed during the hearings, has so far posted a "zero percent" infection rate in the performance of the procedure that Estrada needs.

"In fact, we can safely hazard a guess that the former President will be in better hands here than there (US). Definitely, having the surgery in the Philippines will not violate his right to life or disregard his human dignity," the court added.

The court also said defense lawyers cannot also argue that the court would always have recourse to trial in absentia and extradition if Estrada were to be freed to travel.

It said these were "mere stopgap measures" resorted to when the court can no longer enforce "effective" jurisdiction over a defendant.

"These are contingency measures which cannot be planned in advance and, definitely, cannot be planned by us," the justices said, agreeing with state prosecutors who opposed the motion.

GMA tells Mike to sue Tribune

THE LADY had had enough.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has asked First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to sue The Daily Tribune newspaper for implicating him in rice smuggling and other irregularities.

The President showed just how angry she was at the paper during a dinner with RMN radio executives in Malacañang last Thursday.

She told her guests she had had enough of the Tribune's publishing "baseless accusations" against her husband.

She said she wanted him to sue for libel.

The Tribune came out with the damaging stories against Arroyo several months ago.

Arroyo earlier threatened to sue the paper for libel but decided not to pursue it.

Apparently, what finally provoked the President was the newspaper's recent claim that her eldest son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, was engaged in car smuggling.

Ms Macapagal did not say how much the First Gentleman would be asking for in damages. ***Dona Pazzibugan***

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- Be sure that the COC you get had been authenticated by the ISAP COC Authentication System (COCAS) operated by SQL *Wizard, Inc. The authentication number should be written on the COC.
- When you buy CTPL insurance go to an insurance company or to an Agent who is authorized by his principal insurance company to secure an authentication number from the ISAP COC Authentication System. This Agent will use either the "Internet" or his cellphone to secure an authentication number. Or, go to an Agent who can easily contact his principal insurance company to request the insurance company to secure an authentication number from the ISAP COC Authentication System.
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CARP halted in Negros hacienda

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FARMER beneficiaries of a 472-hectare sugar estate in Negros Occidental placed under agrarian reform have protested the refusal of the Department of Agrarian Reform's Visayas office to transfer the land to them because of a court case lodged by the land's former owner.

Roberto Cuenca, the former owner of the Hacienda Velez-Malaga in Barangay Robles, La Castellana, filed a complaint before the La Carlota regional trial court protesting the CARP coverage of his property. The court obliged him with an injunction in 1996.

Gregorio Paclibar, 74, one of the 180 beneficiaries, said that in 1999, the DAR under then secretary Horacio Morales vowed to defy the lower court by proceeding with the distribution of the land.

But he said the DAR Visayas office has refused to proceed with the land transfer process and has in fact been inclined to give in to Cuenca, an alleged crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The Negros Occidental agrarian reform officer, Alexis Arsenal, has argued that his office cannot proceed with CARP implementation until the court case is resolved. He said that doing so would put him in contempt of court.

But Paclibar countered that under the Agrarian Reform Law, no lower court can issue injunctions against the implementation of CARP.

The Velez-Malaga farmers have been joining a series of pickets and dialogues at the DAR central office to pressure the agency to act.

In June 2000, however, the DAR ordered the dispersal of two Velez-Malaga farmers and 13 other beneficiaries from other controversial lands who had chained themselves to the posts at the DAR central office.

Meanwhile, the DAR Employees Association has asked Congress to investigate the DAR for allegedly spending P55 million during the week-long celebration of Carp's 14th anniversary last June.

DELAYED BY RAINS

Metro gets out late vote

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOME 284,000 registered voters are expected to troop to polling precincts in Metro Manila today to cast their votes in the barangay and youth polls, five days after the mandated date for the elections to be held.

The Commission on Elections will be holding synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in 41 metropolitan barangays where the polls had to be postponed because of the rains and the floods.

The barangays are in Las Piñas, Valenzuela, Malabon, Navotas and two districts in Quezon City, all of which were severely affected by the bad weather last week.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. said elections in those provinces where the polls also had to be postponed would likely be reset to July 27.

The Comelec had to postpone elections in 571 provincial barangays where it was impossible for people to go out and vote because of natural impediments.

Abalos said he was waiting for the election officers in those areas to inform him if voting would be possible next week.

Records from the Comelec education and information department showed that there were 271,957 registered voters for the barangay polls and 11,891 youth voters aged 15 to 17 for the SK elections in Metro Manila who were not able to vote and are being urged to vote today.

Meanwhile, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers has claimed that many teachers who served in the board of election tellers in Metro Manila have yet to receive their honoraria.

ACT acting chair Benjie Valbuena said in a statement that despite the Comelec's handing over of P461 million to the education department to pay the teachers, many have yet to be paid.

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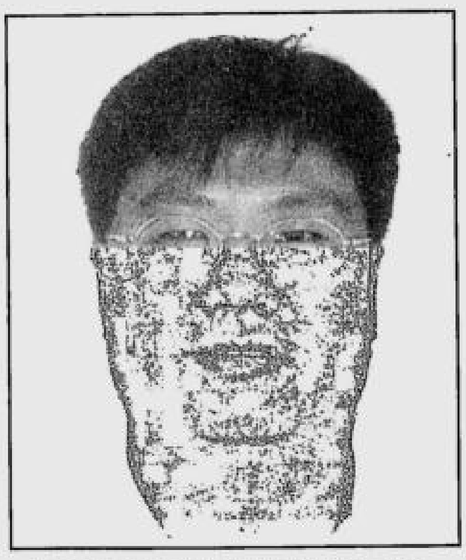

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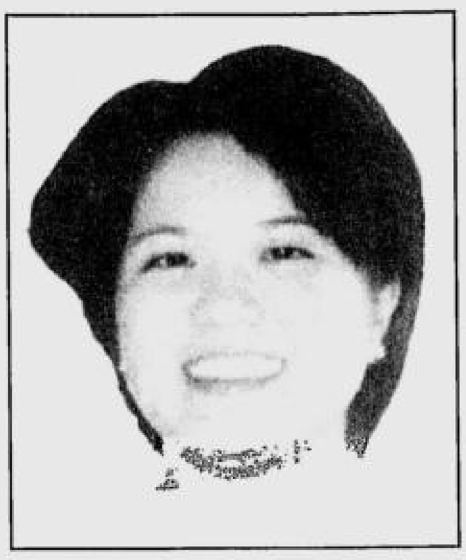

GRACE TAN GO

Roderick Lim Go alias Edu Ting, son of Go Tong Go & Lucy Go of Ronel Marketing Manalili Cor. Lincoln St., Cebu City & **Grace Tan Go**, daughter of Rolando Tan & Elena C. Tan of Crown Cinema, Butuan City are charged with Kidnapping, Etc. in Criminal Case No. CBU-63226 at **RTC**, Cebu City, along with **PO2 Roberto Petillos** and **Henry Baritua**. Anybody who can lead to the arrest of **Roderick Lim Go & Grace Tan Go** will be given a reward of **P200,000.00 each**. Anybody caught harboring the accused will be charged accordingly.

Please Contact **CIDG-CEBU** at **Tel. No. 412-2700 or Headquarters, Cebu City Police Office at Tel. Nos. 231-5802 & 233-0762 or Waterfront Police Station at Tel. Nos. 254-6968 & 256-3344.**

(PDI--July 20, 2002)

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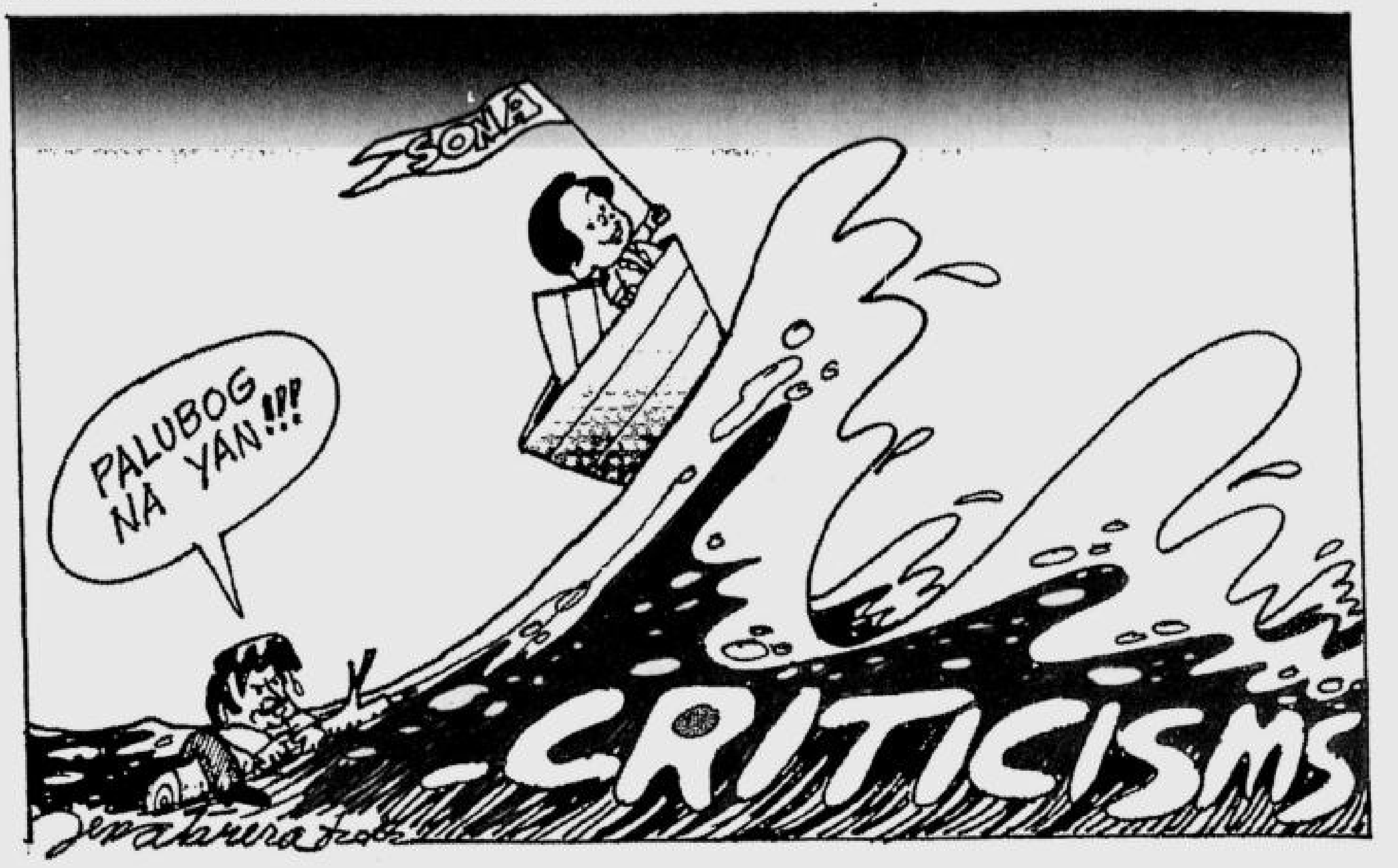

'Sona' of zombies

EDITORIAL

THE STATE of the Nation Address (Sona) is the occasion in which the President of the Republic speaks to the people to give a periodic and regular account of the executive's stewardship of the nation. Through the Sona, the President spells out the executive's vision and policy goals and reports to the people the government's accomplishments of the past year. The Sona is a dignified and democratic mechanism that translates into practice the notion of accountability of the presidency to the sovereign people.

On Monday, President Macapagal-Arroyo reports to the people the accomplishments of her administration based on a quantifiable set of programs she had outlined in her first Sona a year ago and to spell out her priorities for the future.

But in the exuberant spirit of Philippine democracy, the Sona is no longer a presidential prerogative. It has been preempted by disgruntled individuals and groups. Days ahead of the Sona on Monday, disgraced political leaders and leaders of the opposition and of civil society groups who never run out of grievances, have usurped the Sona with their own versions of the state of the nation. They are not accountable to the nation because they are not in power, and yet they label their catalogue of grievances "Sona." This distortion of democracy, in which every fool thinks he has the right to inflict his nonsense on the people, has debased the Sona and the notion of accountability of those in power.

This republic has only one President and the Sona is the legitimate platform for the presidency to make an accounting to the Filipino people. Anyone else who delivers a "Sona" is an impostor.

The other day Joseph Estrada, who was ousted from the presidency, made a pathetic, if not comical, parody of the Sona. Using all the trappings and emblems of the presidency which he had disgraced, he staged in absentia a mock Sona at the Club Filipino.

In that ridiculous ceremony, leaders of the opposition and those closely associated with his government assembled in what looked like a séance of superstitious fanatics congregating in Mt. Banahaw to hear a voice from the supernatural world. They heard the taped voice of Estrada from prison, and the faithful took it like revelation.

Estrada and his cohorts said nothing that they have not said against the administration in the past. Estrada once again reworked the issue of the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's presidency, deriding it as lacking the "sovereign" mandate of the people.

The faithful heard not only Estrada's "Sona." There were other "Sonas" delivered by Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson, not to mention the "Sona" of the perennial gripers from the so-called "civil society," who like to believe they are the invisible and unaccountable government.

Estrada has had his day. He has had his own Sona of his presidency but the one he delivered by remote control is absolute fantasy and nostalgia. Nothing could be more surreal than the Club Filipino theatrical reenactment of a lost presidency. The Estrada faithful who participated in the weird incantation was like a parade of zombies listening to the voice of a ghost.

This is not to say that the Macapagal presidency is without fault. Ms Macapagal has many things to account for, and certainly many will find fault in her accomplishment report on the projects outlined in her first Sona. However, no valid criticism of the administration's performance can be made until one has heard the President's Sona.

If there's going to be a focused and intelligent discourse on accountability, there should be some kind of framework in which criticism of the administration can be made. The detractors of the administration have delivered their own "Sona" by shooting from the hip. By preempting the debate, the issues are not joined, and thus the public does not receive useful information. The free for all in the delivery of "Sonas" is, therefore, nothing more than an attempt to score brownie points with the public.

Debate in a democracy is not just mounting a public platform to express grievances or to criticize public authority. Unbridled expression of criticism, without any focus, is one more manifestation of the Filipino's flirtation with anarchy. It is a sign that democracy is sliding down to chaos and pointless debate.

Cheapening the Court

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE was a notice sometime ago from the Judicial and Bar Council announcing the names of persons who have "applied/been nominated" for two positions of associate justice in the Supreme Court. The public was allowed to "submit any information, written report, sworn complaint or opposition" against any of the applicants not later than July 15.

The list contained 21 names, many of which are unfamiliar to me. Popularity, however, is not a criterion for appointment to the highest tribunal. Some of those obscure persons may be eminently qualified except that they are not or have not sought to be in the limelight. As the poet says, "full many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air."

I have no complaint against any on the list, whether prominent or not, as long as he has not "applied" to be a member of the Supreme Court. Conversely, I express my respect for those listed, whether prominent or not, who have been nominated by others instead of directly presenting themselves for a seat in the highest tribunal.

Those who have waited for others to nominate them have admirable respect for themselves and for the position of associate justice of the Supreme Court. Those who have applied for such membership demean themselves and the office they are actively seeking.

It is said that the position must seek the person and not the other way round. This is generally true of the appointive office, and especially so of membership in the Supreme Court. A justice of the highest court in the land is a cut above ordinary citizens in prestige, competence, and, no less important, decorum.

Justices of the Supreme Court are not politicians or cease to be so once they don judicial robes. Politicians from the President down to the barangay kagawad must ingratiate themselves with the public to get or retain their votes. President Macapagal-Arroyo has worn many tribal costumes because she thinks that is expected of her. Justices, and even only judges, do not engage in such artificialities.

Politicians must act that way if they are to survive the rough-and-tumble of the hustings. They are essentially cheap because they have to go down to the level of the cheap voters. Some upright officials have resisted that demagoguery like the very proper Sergio Osmeña Sr., who did not even choose to campaign during his last hurrah. But his was already a vanishing breed even during that time.

To succeed in politics today, one must be able to warble a song, dance a jig, or dunk a basketball. These extra-constitutional qualifications may trounce the serious candidate who is only honest and intelligent. It is not wholly the fault, though, of the cheap politician; the greater share is with the *bakya* crowd. The best proof of their inimical influence is the election of Joseph Estrada as President of the Philippines.

My friend and colleague, the late Celing Fernan, was fond of singing in public even when he was already a member of the Court. But he voluntarily denied himself that pleasure when he became Chief Justice. Judges, and especially justices of the Supreme Court, must conform to a stricter code of decorous conduct. Their function is to interpret and apply the law, not cater to the popular will or be intimidated by the hooting throng.

That is why I am disturbed by the JBC list that included some persons who have "applied" for appointment as associate justice of the high tribunal. From my own viewpoint, their application is unthinkable and impermissible; it is clearly conduct unbecoming a judge. The JBC does not think so, however; it has accepted and even publicized the debasement of the Court and the presumptuous applications themselves.

When I chaired some years ago a committee to choose the best criminal case decision written by a regional trial court judge, I laid down the rule that any entry saying that the accused was "charged of" the crime should be automatically disqualified. I submit the JBC should also disqualify any person who has such a meager respect for himself as to further cheapen it by directly applying to be a justice of the Supreme Court.

I suppose it would be permissible for a person to apply for a judgeship in the lower courts, but a stricter degree of humility, or plain propriety, is required of an aspirant for the Supreme Court. There should be at least one person who believes in the candidate's eligibility and is willing to spare him the indignity of himself touting his own virtues. If there is not a single person who can do that for him, the applicant is obviously lacking not only in modesty but also ability.

As far as I know, none of the members chosen for the reorganized Supreme Court in 1986 applied for their appointment. I myself was never interviewed by the selection committee, whose membership I have yet to learn. It might have included Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma because it was her husband, the late Dean Rodolfo Palma, who asked me for my resumé. I can only guess who the other members were.

I hope the JBC will confine its recommendations to those who were nominated by others, excluding those who nominated themselves. The applications of these impertinent persons should never have been accepted at all.

Grading the Macapagal administration

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE I was, assiduously going over last year's State of the Nation Address, listing down all the targets (there were 58, by my count) that the President mentioned in connection with the war against poverty. There I was, patting myself on the back for trying to set up a framework for evaluating her performance on the basis of those targets.

There I was, saying to all and sundry that I would wait for the President's report on those targets on Monday so that I would be in a better position to give her a grade, so to speak. There I was, suggesting in a column I wrote, that this year's Sona should have an appendix consisting of a matrix comparing the 58 targets with the actual performance, so everyone can judge for himself or herself how the Macapagal administration performed.

I cringe as I have to admit that I was acting and speaking in ignorance. Because it turns out that all the data are already available, and can be accessed through www.gov.ph, the official website of the Republic of the Philippines. It was in fact published in BusinessWorld (on the same day my column came out).

One can only take comfort in the saying that it is better to be a fool some of the time than a fool all of the time—or if you want it short and sweet, "Live and learn." Apparently, the heading in the website, called "Sona Updates" —how much clearer can you get?—has been a fixture since the President's first Sona last year. And the information is updated regularly. Some of the data were updated as recently as June 27 of this year, others had their last updates at the beginning of May.

So let's give the government an A for transparency—at least in this case. Actually, listing down those 58 targets (divided into eight groups: Food, Jobs and Livelihood, Housing, Education and Other Social Services, Infrastructure, Peace and Order and Security, Business and Economy, and Governance) shoots two birds with one stone. It makes it much easier for an interested Juana Q. Citizen to judge her servant's performance, and it gives the servants tremendous incentive to make sure that the job gets done.

The information is reader-friendly, too. There is a cover page with eight boxes containing each of the 58 targets plus a bullet statement of the status of the targets. For those who want more details, each of the 58 targets has its own page(s) which details what the target is, the lead agency as well as the supporting agencies, the targeted completion date, an executive summary of what the President's pledge was intended to achieve, the project outcome (accomplishments) and the date when the information was last updated.

Really impressive. My congratulations for a great system.

Given the targets and their corresponding accomplishments, what grade does the administration earn?

First, a discussion of the computational procedure. I used the UP grading system where 1 is excellent and 5 is fail. Each target accomplishment got a grade, and these were averaged within a particular category. I then summed up the averages for each category and divided by eight, which means that each category received the same weight.

An alternative way would have been to assign different weights for each category, with the largest weights going to the category considered to be of the highest priority. But then one would be have to agonize over whether governance targets were more important than education and other social services, and whether these were more or less important than infrastructure, which in turn had to be compared against jobs. Better (for me) to take the easy way out instead of trying to argue whether the chicken or the egg came first.

Second, a frequency distribution of the grades: six of the 58 target accomplishments merited a grade of 1 in my book. Among these were the setting up of a provident fund for overseas Filipinos, the completion of the Mal-Mar infrastructure project and the enrollment of over 500,000 urban poor in the National Health Insurance System.

It got pretty high marks (1.25 to 1.5) in 10 areas—such as the Afma budget allocation, the microfinance project and the settlement of labor disputes.

At the other end, the administration got a grade of 5 in three targets, two of which were in the area of governance: one pledging that frontline agencies would cut in half the number of signatories needed for transactions with them, and the other that the BIR and Customs would be showcases against graft and corruption(!). The garbage plan for Metro Manila, which was under Education and Social Services, got the other failing grade.

It also got conditional marks (4) for seven targets, e.g., putting the bulk of the kidnap-for-ransom gangs behind bars and cutting the price of medicines in half (74 hospitals selling these medicines out of 623 government institutions is nothing to crow about, alas).

The major area where the government got the highest average (1.67) was in jobs and livelihood. It got the lowest marks (3.167) in governance. It would have gotten pretty good marks in education, but unfortunately these targets were lumped together with other social services (including garbage and traffic management in Metro Manila), but that's how the cookie crumbles.

The bottom line? The Macapagal administration gets an average grade of 2.41—which means better than satisfactory (2.5) but less than good (2.0).

Senators seek 'civilized' way to end crisis

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ALL eyes will be on the Senate this weekend, as both warring political groups marshal their forces for Monday's opening session. Over the past few days, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Majority Leader Loren Legarda have been meeting with opposition leaders Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel to find a "civilized" way to handle the crisis in the chamber. They are obviously trying to allay the public's disgust over the recent coup and the resulting impasse that has thrown the chamber into disarray, imperiling the legislative agenda. The Angara-Pimentel tandem was said to have pressed for an "equitable distribution of chairmanships" and a "loose coalition with the majority, " with the latter controlling things. But these demands may be just the opposition's way of bracing for the changes that are sure to come.

Sen. Ramon Revilla arrived early yesterday from the United States, and now it is the opposition whose membership is incomplete since Sen. Robert Jaworski has yet to arrive. Rumors persist that Jawo will jump to the administration side in response to the pleas of his ailing father-in-law that he put the interest of the country above all other considerations. Jawo's turnaround would be quite logical, for all his relatives are already with the administration. His brother-in-law Bong Revilla is now chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board and his cousin-in-law Edgardo Espiritu is the treasurer of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Kampi. Even Jawo's *balae*, Peping and Tingting Cojuangco, are with GMA.

Then, too, Sen. Blas Ople's oath-taking as foreign secretary is a foregone conclusion.

* * *

I spoke on the phone recently with Speaker Jose de Venecia and teased him about what Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez referred to as his "peregrinations." ***Pero naman*****, replied JDV, "I never return without something for our people." He has just returned from official trips to Russia, Finland and the Netherlands and among the projects he took up with Finnish officials was the reforestation of some areas that have become badly denuded, causing massive floods that resulted in the loss of many lives and the destruction of property, including thousands of hectares of farmland. The destruction of the forests has also meant loss of income for thousands of Filipinos.**

* * *

While in Helsinki, JDV broached the idea of reforesting parts of the Philippines to the officials of Metsahallitus, a 142-year-old firm that has developed a modern tree-planting technology and administers more than 12 million hectares of state-owned land and water areas in Finland. He discussed with Tuomo Kotimaki, Metsahallitus' vice president, a possible P75-million reforestation soft loan with a five-year grace period on principal and a 15-year repayment plan without interest. Earlier he met with high-ranking Finnish officials for wide-ranging discussions on bilateral economic and political relations, including the reforestation project, and the Finnish officials, who are big on environmental conservation, expressed strong interest in the project. JDV plans to sit down with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to discuss the mechanics of the project before finalizing it with the Finns.

JDV's plan, which was a campaign promise he made in the 1998 presidential elections, is to replant some 400,000 hectares around the country at the rate of 2,500 trees per hectare, using locally produced seedlings, or a total of one billion for the 400,000 hectares. He projects an income from this $75-million reforestation program of as much as $5 billion in 10 years, in addition to providing employment for half a million Filipinos. As JDV sees it, reforestation would address the country's major environmental problems, help solve the unemployment problem and supply timber products for GMA's mass housing and classroom-building programs.

* * *

As expected, the entire slate of Joe Concepcion, who ran for reelection as barangay captain of Forbes Park, won 65 percent of the 1,413 votes cast in the barangay. JoeCon and all the winning ***kagawad*** **are inviting all residents to attend a thanksgiving Mass this evening at 7:30 at the Forbes Park basketball court, followed by a getting-to-know-you and reconciliation program. Among the invited guests will be JoeCon's opponent Enrique "Riquit" Lagdameo and the members of his slate.**

Elected with JoeCon were two council members from the working-class sector: Bong Lansang, the driver of Fernando Zobel, and Janneth Escarlan, a housemaid of the Eduardo Lopez family. As the new board envisions it, Lansang will take care of the maintenance of all vehicles operated by the board, while Escarlan will be manning a special desk to take care of the needs of the working-class group, or service sector, in Forbes Park, i.e., the maids, ***yaya*****, drivers, gardeners, etc., who make up 60 percent of the population of the barangay.**

* * *

The Auxiliary Board at the Philippine General Hospital on Taft Avenue, a group of prominent ladies who serve as volunteers mainly to help indigent patients, has been running a snack canteen for many years now as a way of raising funds for its charity programs. Many of them are wives of doctors at the PGH. Lately, the ladies have noticed that the paper bills that they have been getting from those who patronize their canteen are so old, battered and torn, and they have a difficult time handling these. They wonder if these bills have not been consigned for burning at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas but smuggled out for circulation again. I myself have noticed the very old and tattered bills are in circulation again. Paging the Bangko Sentral.

Saving the Senate

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DESPITE the Senate-bashing at Thursday evening's "Debate," there's still reason to hope the senators can transform their chamber into the "Upper House" that was revered and esteemed by the public, when it was the home of such respected statesmen as Recto, Laurel, Tañada, Diokno, Salonga, Aquino and other seasoned politicians.

Time was when, next to the presidency, the Senate was viewed as the pinnacle of one's political career, a fitting reward to cap one's years of toiling in local electoral offices. And as Winnie Monsod mentioned in her closing remarks, there have been many times in the past when she was quite proud of the Senate, when the vaunted independence of its members came to the fore and foiled various schemes to fool the public and get around the law.

Why is it, I asked Senators Loren Legarda, Edgardo Angara and Ping Lacson during a break during taping, that the House of Representatives is seen as a much more unified body than the Senate? Especially under master coalition-builder Speaker Jose de Venecia, the House leadership manages to pursue its legislative agenda with relatively few obstacles along the path. The Senate, on the other hand, has been described as a gathering of "24 independent republics," with each senator, regardless of party affiliation, voting on legislation or carrying out the other work of the chamber as he or she sees fit and based on personal conviction.

This can lead to what many have come to call "obstructionism," but as Legarda sees it, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. "While House members may vote more along party lines, we insist on judging bills on their merits," she said. In a legislative regime ruled by expediency and accommodation, the Senate could, by and large, serve as the only barrier to a ruling party's steamroller tactics.

* * *

SO why is it that goings-on in the Senate seem to be receiving much more negative coverage these days? Why have public approval ratings for the Senate, traditionally high, taken a dive in the past year or so?

Perhaps the 12-12 configuration (after the administration lost a slim lead recently) has much to do with the troubles of the Senate. This isn't all due to public perception or a negative press. The public is smart enough to recognize that there is a basis for the perception. Unlike in the past when senators could assert their independence and yet work cohesively in pursuit of a legislative agenda, an almost-even split means one side—opposition or administration—could take advantage of any slight weakening or oversight. This cannot but lead to politicking and intrigue, to a seemingly endless string of denunciations, investigations and power plays.

While Angara and Lacson averred that they were not in favor of such tactics as Sen. John Osmeña's bolting the administration coalition out of personal pique, they have yet to explain why they and the rest of their group so eagerly welcomed him back to their fold. And why, in their rush to exploit the situation, they quickly proclaimed themselves the "new majority" even if this meant taking advantage of the fact that a colleague, Sen. Ramon Revilla was abroad for medical treatment.

Principles are fine, it seems, but political advantage is even better.

* * *

"IGAN" Arnold Clavio brought out one reason why the senators seem to think the matter of Senate leadership is so crucial. Whoever holds "majority" status in the chamber, after all, has the power to name the chairs of every committee, particularly the power to reserve for themselves the most powerful and politically significant and prominent committees. Chairing a committee, it turns out, can also be lucrative as it gives the chair access to funds earmarked for holding hearings (many out-of-town), investigations, and an entire staff.

The three guests at "Debate" all claimed to want nothing less than amity within the chamber. And yet the internecine struggles of the past year have only painted a picture of a Senate at war with itself, as gleaned from privilege speeches laced with personal bitterness the likes of which were never heard before on the Senate floor, dirty tactics and character assassination and investigation after investigation.

To be fair, as the three pointed out, investigation is one of the senators' three main responsibilities, along with legislation and oversight. (Of the three, admitted Lacson, they have been weakest on oversight.) And yet the investigations initiated so far seem not so much to be aimed at crafting better laws or unearthing irregularities, as going after political enemies on both sides.

* * *

LEGARDA and Angara swear that come Monday, there will be no fireworks in the Senate, and that there will be no precipitate vote called to oust anyone from or install anyone in the Senate presidency.

"We have already sat down and set our common legislative agenda," they declared. If they could do this now, why haven't they done it earlier? And how long will the truce last?

I bet the public isn't exactly holding its breath. The break will come sooner than later because the deadlock is simply too tempting to ignore. Everyone expects the senators to be at each other's throats as soon as the polls show some improvement.

Meantime, public cynicism and the people's sense of hopelessness mounts. Where they look for a sense of direction and the possibility of hope from our leaders, they are finding endless bickering and jostling for advantage.

The 1875 elections in Sariaya

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

OVER THE 11 kilometers between Tayabas and Sariaya are three more bridges: Isabel II over the Iyam River whose first stone was laid by Gov. D. Jose Maria de la O in 1852, another built by Urbiztondo over the River Malaoa and a third one built by D. Francisco de Asis joining the high rocks among which the picturesque waters of the tortuous and wild Domoit runs.

The bridge of Urbiztondo was finished in 1854 and that of D. Francisco de Asis was completed in October of the same year. The De Asis bridge used 10,651 hewn stones and Urbiztondo's 9,967, according to the engineering plans kept in the provincial archives. These public works like most of those found in the province were carried out by community labor under the direction of the governor.

In the chronicles of the Franciscan Order, the name of Sariaya appears for the first time on April 17, 1599. It is located between the sea and the foothills of San Cristobal and borders the towns of Tiaong and Tayabas. Most of the houses are clean but constructed lightly of nipa, bamboo, *cabo negro* and *cogon*. The convent has a lovely look, comfortable and well-proportioned. At first glance, it looks more like the house of a rich *hacendero* than the ascetic asylum of missionaries. A beautiful view can be appreciated from its galleries. The wide staircase ascends to an expansive landing, terminating in a beautiful azotea with vistas of Banahaw. In the church is venerated a crucifix which, according to tradition, was saved from the fire that reduced the town to ashes after one of the many Moro raids on the coast of Tayabas the previous century.

Other noteworthy edifices are the *casa-cuartel* of the Guardia Civil located on the banks of the river and the school found in the center of the plaza that also serves as the tribunal during great feasts.

During these feasts, the ceiling of the grand salon of the school was decorated with green foliage forming a picturesque dome from which various fruits hung. Small banners and streamers decorated the windows of shell. A wide table with the gilt place of honor was put in the center together with another table that had 13 inkstands on top of white sheets of paper. Two rows of benches ran the entire length of the salon in front of the presidential table. In another table covered with the whitest tablecloth and decorated with ribbons in an abundance of color were a great profusion of cold foods, pastas and sweets and not a few bottles of wine and beer.

On top of the presidential table a magnificent writing set of silver stood out, and to the right and left were two jars whose mouths were covered by a paper pasted with rice glue. The voting table with its white sheets of paper and its 13 ink stands, neatly separated, and the chairs that faced them resembled a newspaper office.

At 7 a.m. drums were beaten, followed by the playing of the band. Preceded by *principales* and *cuadrilleros*, the *alcalde* arrived accompanied by the priest and some other Spaniards. As soon as everyone was present, the music stopped and the governor spoke while the interpreter translated what he said into Tagalog. He told them to vote without regard for any pressure and obeying only their conscience.

The mayor removed the paper covering the mouth of the jar and emptied the contents which were small bamboo canisters whose ends showed the rolls of paper containing the names of past captains and individuals who lived in the municipality for 10 years. In the jar on the left were the names of the chiefs of the barangay that formed the *principalia*.

Months before the election, the supporters of each candidate had begun to move and give frequent feasts for the voters. Offers were made, influences searched, concessions granted, friendships renewed, quarrels settled and everyone marched toward the same objective. The elements that entered into an election in Tayabas began with the *lechon* and demijohns of wine and brandy.

The most sought after were the offices of *gobernadorcillo*, first lieutenant and first judge. The mayor in a solemn voice intoned: "Let the elections begin." A boy of 5 or 6 years got six bamboo canisters from the jar on the right while another boy of the same age took the same number from the one on the left. The mayor proceeded to unroll the paper, reading the names of the voters. Amid the great silence, the voters approached the table and sat down with the *gobernadorcillo*. Each was armed with a pen and a sheet of paper, with a heading that had been placed beforehand. The names for the three positions were filled up, and once this was done the paper was given to the mayor who read them aloud.

Once the election was over, the music started up again and the inkstands and white sheets of paper disappeared, replaced by very fine tablecloths of *piña* and the tables were quickly filled with foodstuff on platters. Lunch was served, after which the mayor retired after reminding everyone that he would induct the new officials at 5 p.m.

Not even schoolchildren in the absence of the teacher could have been as noisy as the participants of the elections as soon as the governor left. They commented on the election, they murmured, they drank, they ate and finally they danced. In Tayabas, the *principales* participate in all official acts and never failed to attend the elections. Finally, the drums are beaten again and everything was ready for the count.

Unworthy pastors

YOUNG BLOOD

Melinda Cielo C. Mendoza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

SOMETIMES I wonder why religious people are called "religious" when they despise the less fortunate. Or why they are called messengers of the Lord when they speak of the language of demons. Or why they are called shepherds of the flock when they ignore what the people need.

I have to admit that I am angry. But I am not mad at the entire clergy, the Vatican, or all the priests, nuns, pastors and religious leaders. I'm only talking about some religious men.

I go to Sunday Mass regularly. I go to church on other holidays of obligation like Holy Week, the Immaculate Conception and Christmas. I also receive the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. But I don't know why every time the priest delivers his homily I simply tune out because I find the whole thing very irritating. It's making me sin. It's making me doubt if God chooses well those who are going to administer his Church.

I have been to many churches, met a lot of priests and witnessed human nature at work. And I have seen a priest ruin a beautiful wedding.

The entourage was marching and everyone had a smile on his face. Cameras flashed every second. Relatives smiled and whispered to each other. Until the priest stood up from his chair, stretched out his hand and told everyone to stop what they were doing. Not content with that, he came down from the altar and pushed the photographer who almost fell.

The priest's behavior shocked everyone, including me. But the show had to go on. The wedding march continued but everyone was sporting a long face. The priest delivered the homily but I'm sure everyone was faking attention.

The ceremony ended with everyone feeling very awkward and uncomfortable. The young couple had to force a smile every time the photographer took a picture of them. There was little room for laughter, celebration, happiness.

How could the priest do it to the young couple? How could he ruin the most memorable moment of their young lives, and how could he do it while wearing vestments that were white and pure? How could he be so rude, uncivilized and indecent?

I know priests are people, too. They can get angry, commit sin and even act violently. But they are supposed to be models for everyone. They represent Jesus' image here on earth and they should be like Him.

Jesus was tempted too by Satan according to the Bible. But He kept His faith and patience. He did not give in to Satan.

If we are followers of Christ, we should be able to follow in His footsteps. We should try to be perfect like Him. It is a lame excuse to say that we are only human and prone to make mistakes. The fact that we chose to live the way Christ lived means it is our choice to become a perfect (or an almost perfect) Christian in the eyes of God and of men.

It saddens me to know religious leaders who are not worthy of respect. I hope they can still speak honestly every time they preach and evangelize. But their words are not as important as their actions or the way they treat other people. What is important is how they deal with people—rich or poor, normal or disabled.

I hope my impression will still change as I meet other religious leaders. I still want to believe that they are indeed the messengers of the Lord.

Melinda Cielo C. Mendoza, 21, is a political science graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Hypocrisy

Carla Myriel Dumo

I DON'T go to church. I mean, I do go to church during Christmas and Easter, and that's about it. But if you can count Mass at school, where all the students are forced to go, then I attend Mass twice a week. But before you condemn me as a juvenile delinquent or a worshipper of Satan, hear me out first.

I was raised by extremely pious Protestant parents. We said our prayers before meals and bedtime and went to church twice a week. We were not allowed to swear or use God's name in vain, even if it was just a simple "Oh, my God!"

One time when I was in Grade 7, my mom stumbled upon my diary and she threw a fit when she read how many four-letter words I had written down there. She screamed at me demanding to know if that was how a Christian girl was supposed to speak.

Still I had a lot of missionary friends and I joined all the other kids at Sunday school. I memorized all the church hymns and joined the adults in raising our arms to the ceiling during worship, trying to "touch God."

As I grew up and got more exposed to the world, I started to question religion a lot more. The doubts magnified even more when my Mom passed away when I was 13. I was already a confused little teenager and the last thing I needed was anything that would confuse me even more. Ironically, that was exactly what I got. At this point, I strayed away from the flock and ventured on my own.

I know I am experiencing a great religious confusion. I say "religious" not "spiritual" because there is a big difference between the two words. I learned that by going to big cathedrals and observing the people there. I went to church for educational purposes and when I left I got more and more dismayed.

You see, whenever I enter a church, it is packed with worshippers. People are standing and the heat is unbearable. I take a pew at the back and start watching. While the hymns are being sung I see people singing and raising their hands, with their eyes closed. But when the sermon starts, the fun begins. Everywhere, people talk or laugh or sleep. Hardly anyone listens to the preacher! Oh yes, there are people who listen but they don't make up even half of those who are in church.

I can't bear to see this, and so I leave. I can't understand why a lot of people do such sacrilegious things in church.

But my new "education" doesn't stop there. I observe all my neighbors who are "devout Christians." They go to church every Sunday and there they look so holy and amazingly act like they were really holy.

When they get home, there is a major transformation. They go out and drink till they drop and commit all sorts of transgressions. And then when Sunday comes, they turn back into little angels.

Isn't this hypocrisy? I think they are taking God's assurance of salvation and forgiveness for granted, believing that so long as they repent every Sunday they will be spared from eternal damnation.

Is this what religion teaches people? Whatever happened to spiritual values? How can anyone put on a mask of holiness when he is in church?

I am still searching for spiritual fulfillment. And the basic question I ask is: Am I just a religious person? Or am I living a full spiritual life and having that personal relationship we should all have with our God?

Carla Myriel Dumo, 15, is a junior at Brent International School Baguio.

Many talents but so little creativity

FOR YEARS, our country has been in a creative plateau when it comes to producing any form of art. Despite having a steady flow of successful artists in different fields, I believe that credit has not been given to those who truly deserve it. I find it hard to understand why most Filipinos have this habit of praising works of mediocrity. Because of this, rarely does anybody ever try to create anything exceptional and the country is unable to become a cradle of anything artistically excellent.

Even if the Philippines does spawn a lot of talent when it comes to making art, many of them don't actually create art. The most obvious example is the music industry. I believe we have plenty of creative geniuses responsible for some of the best music on the planet, but those who are reaping the most rewards from the industry are those who gave nothing to it. It has become trendy for the most popular, hence successful, local musicians today to release albums filled with cover song after song. In other words, they make money on songs they never helped create. I do realize that reviving oldies takes a lot of hard work and talent, but that's not being creative.

I know that in art, nothing is completely original, but they could at least give it a try. Some of these musicians appear to have completely ceased to do anything new. Why? Simply because in doing so, they have a great money-making strategy that involves producing albums quickly and requires little creative effort. They're very easy to sell because everyone loves to listen to songs that are familiar, particularly if they're packaged with a whole bunch of other familiar songs. The harmful side effect happens when we allow these musicians to take the center stage of the industry while pushing the true artists, those who create their own music, farther into the background.

The local film industry is afflicted with a similar ailment. Everyone should recognize by now that almost every other movie being released is nothing more than a permutation of the last. I don't want to discuss the quality of these movies because that is subjective. But it's very easy to see that, in making movies here in the Philippines, the only thought that goes into production is how to draw the most number of viewers. Hardly does anybody ever attempt to be creative. It's bad enough that local filmmakers mimic the style of foreign films, but it's even worse when these local "artists" mimic each other's dreary work.

But even if the majority of local music and films fail at being artistic, at least they're flourishing. Filipino literature and visual art are in a worse situation since many of us are denied easy access to either medium. The only way we can appreciate these art forms is by searching for them. This is very difficult because they are rarely ever promoted and it's really easy to forget that they even exist in this country.

The Philippines is indeed rich with talent. But, as much as I hate to say it, the only thing preventing the Filipino people from becoming a creative force are the Filipino people themselves.

—CARLO CHRISTIAN N. CABRERA,
35-25 Flora Ave., Villa Teresa,
Angeles City

Miriam's first labor strike may not be the last

THIS is in response to Rina Jimenez-David's column last July 6. While it was generous of her to keep the public in touch with what's going on in Miriam College, we would like to clarify some statements.

The Union for Non-Academic Personnel of Miriam College staged a strike on June 13, 2002 on the grounds of unfair labor practices. These practices are: (1) contracting out services being performed by union members, (2) coercion, (3) union busting, and (4) retrenchment of 13 employees or violation of provision on laying off as stipulated in the collective bargaining agreement between the administration and the union. It's not actually simple retrenchment of 13 employees; it is part of related acts of union busting. Most of the retrenched employees are union officers.

In the afternoon of June 15, a Notice of Order from the Department of Labor and Employment was delivered to both parties. The case was forwarded to the National Labor and Relations Commission (NLRC) for compulsory arbitration. It is clearly stated in Article 263 (g) of the Labor Code that "all striking or locked -out employees shall immediately resume operations and readmit all workers under the same terms and conditions prevailing before the strike or lockout."

It should be noted that all the striking workers, including the 13 who are targets of illegal dismissal, are still regular employees of Miriam College. The 13 employees were issued retrenchment papers on May 13 to take effect on June 14. June 13 would have been their last day of work if the union accepted the retrenchment.

We lifted the strike, all of us, and got ready to return to work on June 17. But the management barred the entry of the 13 employees, which was clearly in defiance of the DOLE's order.

It is not true that striking workers have returned to work. There are 13 of us who have not been allowed to do so. The 13 employees who joined the strike are still at the front gate despite the heavy rains or the heat of the sun.

The Miriam administration cites financial losses as the reason for its decision to retrench, but it does not present any data to support this claim. We challenge them to do so. We have data from the Securities and Exchange Commission, showing that the foundation is earning money. The total assets of the school in 1998 was reported to be P462.5 million. This amount rose to P552.8 million in 2001.

Finally, we disagree with the administration's claims that the enrollment figures are going down. The annual report of Miriam showed an increase in enrollment from 8,931 in 1997 to 9,477 in 2001.

It is also not true that Miriam has not increased its fees. It now collects P2,000 for Physical Plant Development from students.

As for the "generous" Early Retirement Program, we ask David to look into the matter more objectively.

It is true that the labor dispute has been forwarded to the NLRC for decision. In the meantime, the 13 employees who were illegally dismissed have children to feed and send to school.

The case did not end with the violation of our collective bargaining agreement which states that in case of layoffs, contractuals and casuals should go first. Actually, we are supposed to be in the process of renegotiating with the administration, but it has refused to do so. Under these circumstances, we cannot say that the first strike in the history of Miriam College will be the last.

—LOURDES BALMACEDA-CHAN,
public information officer, Union
for Non-Academic Personnel,
Miriam College, Quezon City

Things Tañada didn't explain

AS far as we are concerned, Bobby Tañada does not improve the legal situation of Meralco a wee bit.

As for losing face with his ex-comrades, he is the best judge of that himself. There must be enough of that, going by the din in the media but I guess there is even more in the Tañada household. Those are demons only Bobby Tañada can deal with.

I heard Tañada last July 12 explaining over dzBB why he took the Meralco case. Meralco has not increased its rates since 1994 and it deserved the 30-centavo per kWh rate increase based on its petition filed in April 2000, he said.

Betting on Tañada's sense of balance and fairness, even with a client like Meralco, I was sure he would mention the fact that in 1998, Meralco was ordered to roll back its rates by 16.7 centavos/kWh, in effect cutting the 18.4-centavo increase granted in 1994 to 1.7 centavos. Computing Meralco's accumulated overcharge, the Energy Regulatory Board set the refund at P10.8 billion. I expected Tañada to explain how Meralco could make the overcharge by claiming expenses that were not deductible—like income tax amounting to over P2 billion and booking assets that were not used to give us electricity, like the Rockwell plant site.

Finally, I expected Tañada to explain the formula Meralco uses in asking for its increases: the return on rate base or RORB.

If we use the 1994 application of that RORB formula, Meralco will not have to pay us the refund. And maybe it will be entitled to the 30-centavo increase it asked for in April 2000.

But if we use the ERB's application of that formula in 1998, then Meralco must pay us a refund of over P20 billion, and could perhaps get an increase of about 4 centavos from its April 2000 petition, taking it proportionately to the 1994 order overturned by the ERB in 1998. As a consumer, I hope the Supreme Court upholds the 1998 ERB order.

Incidentally, while we are talking of centavos, that is hardly loose change. Given Meralco's sales of 22 billion kWh, one centavo is equivalent to P220 million a year. That's like wining "Game Ka Na Ba" on every play day for one year!

I was surprised when Tañada did not make those points "on the air." But I was not surprised he took on Meralco as his client. After all, wasn't he the poster boy in some of the cement cartel advertisements at the height of the tariff controversy?

—PETE ILAGAN, president,
National Association of Electricity
Consumers for Reforms Inc., Unit
616 Roxas Seafront Garden
Townhomes, Roxas Blvd., cor.
Ortigas St., Pasay City

Greenpeace answers genetic engineering advocate

THE RECENT visit of a US-based genetic engineering advocate, Dr. Channapatna S. Prakash, has prompted us to write to you to correct some inaccurate and misleading statements about Greenpeace made by Dr. Prakash and published in newspapers (not in the Inquirer).

It is a fundamental principle of Greenpeace—written into its statutes—that it retains financial independence. Therefore, we do not solicit or accept funding from corporations, governments and political parties. We neither seek nor accept donations that could compromise our independence, aims, objectives and integrity. Ninety-five percent of our global income comes from individual donations, including bequests and major donors; Greenpeace has over 2.6 million supporters who live in over 100 countries throughout the North and South and share our concern about the future of the planet.

Furthermore, Greenpeace believes in transparency. Our audited financial report is a public document and is available in printed form or on the website (www.greenpeace.org). The $170-million budget that Dr. Prakash claims we spend to oppose genetic engineering is substantially above the total Greenpeace budget for its entire operations in 40 countries across all its campaigns, as can be seen from our financial report. Money used to campaign globally against the release of genetically engineered organisms into the environment is a fraction of the amount spent in the promotion of genetically engineered (GE) crops by the industry.

As a not-for-profit organization, Greenpeace does not own companies, neither does it endorse, sponsor or certify companies. Greenpeace has, however, for the increasing number of food manufacturers who want to exclude GE ingredients from their production process, identified those companies that have stated or certified their aim to provide non-GE supplies. This continues to be necessary for as long as GE crops are produced and the industry refuses to separate its crops from conventional crops, routinely risking the pollution of the food chain with genetic contamination. Greenpeace believes that it is the genetic experimentation with our food and the environment that is tyrannical, rather than any campaign advocating the consumers' right to know about GE ingredients.

Dr. Prakash leads his audience to believe that the release of GE crops is the wave of the future. However, the reality is that consumers are demanding the regulation of these products. At the beginning of July, China joined the 15 countries of the European Union, Australia, Japan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and many other countries in requiring compulsory labelling of GE food. The addition of China means that now over two billion people worldwide—30 percent of the population—have access to products that are covered by GE labelling, confirming the trend that compulsory labelling of GE food is becoming the standard international practice.

Preserving the integrity of this planet is paramount to our organization. We will continue to work with corporations who are willing to clean up their production processes in recognition of their social responsibility. We will also continue to help governments craft environmentally sound policies. Greenpeace has always highlighted the environmental dangers that industries provoke on Earth and will do so until unsound environmental practices are changed.

Promoters and supporters of GE should respond to the substantial issues that are being raised against the technology and its products. GE products have not been proven safe. Releasing them into the environment continues to put people and the planet at risk of contamination that is irreversible as genetic pollution cannot be recalled. The GE industry promotes its products based on unsubstantiated or false claims that promise benefits that may never materialize, and ignores the possibility of adverse effects.

—FRANCIS JOSEPH C. DE LA
CRUZ, campaign team leader,
Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Unit
329 Eagle Court Condominium,
26 Matalino St.,
Diliman, Quezon City

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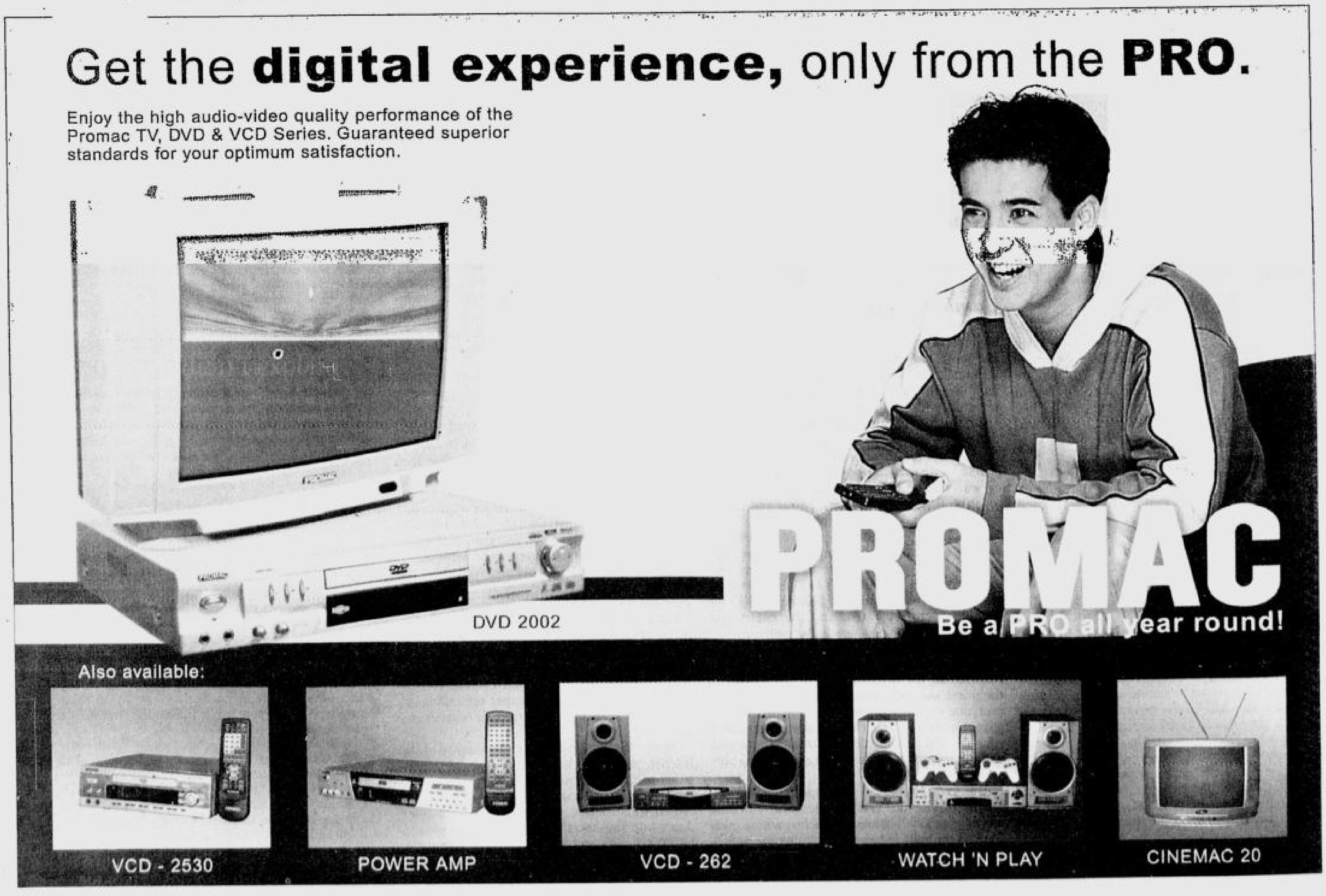

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Owwa chief quits after GMA tells him to 'shut up'

"SHUT up, if you want to keep your job," President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered.

"I'd rather quit," replied Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Wilhelm Soriano, and he proceeded to announce that he was, in fact, resigning effective Aug. 1.

President Macapagal had ordered Soriano to stop his ongoing squabble with Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

The instruction was coursed through Dodie Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs.

"You should call up (Soriano) and tell him to stop issuing statements (against Sto. Tomas) if he wants to keep his job," Ms Macapagal said.

This was witnessed by journalists invited to lunch at Malacañang yesterday. One of the reporters had asked the President about the protracted word war between the two ranking labor officials.

"Pat should be on top," she said. "(Soriano) is under her."

The rift started when Sto. Tomas exposed an alleged illegal investment made by Soriano using Owwa funds. She said Soriano authorized the investment without permission from the Owwa board, on which she sat as chair.

Soriano shot back, accusing Sto. Tomas of not releasing funds meant to finance the repatriation of stranded overseas Filipino workers in Israel.

Soriano told the INQUIRER he would rather leave his post than follow the President's instruction, because, "It's difficult to just shut up."*Rocky Nazareno*

More rains expected from 'Juan'

THE weather bureau yesterday spotted another tropical depression moving closer to Eastern Visayas and the Bicol Region with strongest sustained winds of 55 kph near the center.

"Juan," although weaker than last weekend's 150-kph typhoon "Inday," brought scattered rains to Metro Manila yesterday afternoon.

Public Storm Signal No. 1 remains hoisted over Dinagat Islands, Leyte including Biliran Islands, Samar Provinces, Masbate, Sorsogon, Burias Island, Albay, Catanduanes and Camarines provinces.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said these areas would have rains and winds of not more than 55 kph.

Elsewhere, public storm signals have been lowered but rains are still expected as Juan enhances the southwest monsoon and brings occasional rains and isolated thunderstorms over Central and Southern Luzon, and the rest of the Visayas.

PLM '68 forms foundation

MEMBERS of Class '68 of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila have been invited to join the newly organized PLM Batch '68 Development Foundation Inc.

Carol Z. Mangawang, foundation president, said the organization aims "not only to reminisce about the good old days but to help PLM students, particularly the children of fellow alumni, attend school through scholarships."

She said the foundation also aims to implement a social amelioration program that would include medical-dental services and livelihood projects to benefit its members.

Members of the class may contract Cesar San Pedro at tel. 0917-629-3289; Celia Gutierrez, 636-5484, or Carol Mangawang, 0918-917-1268, for more information.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Mahathir: US attack on Iraq would be 'unjust'

MAHATHIR delivering his keynote address at the International Forum on Islam in Kuala Lumpur, July 19. AFP

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Friday slammed proposed US military action against Iraq, saying it would be unjust and undemocratic.

Mahathir said using military force to unseat Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would only serve to provoke greater hatred and dent the Islamic world's efforts to show the "moderate face" of Islam.

It would hurt efforts by moderate Muslims to calm the anger of their fellow religionists towards the US, he said.

"It will make it difficult for us to show the moderate face of Islam," said Mahathir, a Muslim leader courted by the United States since September 11's suicide hijackings by suspected Islamic militants.

Mahathir spoke amid mounting speculation of possible US

attacks on Iraq to oust President Saddam Hussein, which he said would spur anger towards America among Malaysians.

"We would certainly consider this as a very negative thing to do which would provoke a greater hatred, even, among people in Malaysia for what the US does," he said in reply to a question from the floor at a conference on Islam and education.

"The quarrel is with Saddam Hussein. You say he is a dictator but it's up to the people of Iraq to change their leader.

"Because they cannot, you cannot punish them," he said, replying to a question by a US academic.

"You punish people who have no means of changing ther condition, that is not justice," he added.

"We pray and hope that it will not be done . . . it will make it difficult for us to show the moderate face of Islam."

President George W. Bush said last week Washington would use all tools at its disposal to topple Saddam. He had branded Iraq part of an "axis of evil" supporting terrorism and developing weapons of mass destruction. Iraq denies the US charges.

Diplomats in the Middle East say a US move against Saddam is only a matter of time.

"The question is not whether the US will attack, it's a question of when and how," a diplomat whose country is a permanent member of the UN Security Council said this week. *AFP/Reuters*

Israel weighs exile for militants' kin

JERUSALEM—Israel signalled a change of tactics in its battle against suicide bombings on Friday, detaining relatives of Palestinian militants for possible exile from the West Bank to Gaza as a deterrent to future attackers.

Reeling from Palestinian attacks this week that killed 11 people in Israel and outside a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, the Israeli army also destroyed the family homes of two wanted men.

Wednesday's double suicide bombing in Tel Aviv and a bus ambush in the West Bank a day before ended a month of relative calm after Israel's reoccupation of seven Palestinian cities, underscoring the army's inability to stop such attacks completely.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the suicide bombings, but militants waging an uprising against Israeli occupation say such attacks respond to aggression by the Israeli army, which has reoccupied the Palestinian-ruled cities in the West Bank.

The Israeli army said its forces, operating near the West Bank city of Nablus, destroyed the homes of al-Din Assidi of Hamas and Ali Ahmad al-Ajouri of Fatah and detained relatives of both men.

Witnesses said 22 people were made homeless.

Israeli political sources said Israel intended to send the detained family members—the militants' fathers and brothers—to the Gaza Strip. Palestinian officials said 16 men were taken into custody.

But no date was announced for banishing them, a move likely to draw an international outcry, and the detainees could be granted recourse to challenge the edict in an Israeli court.

In a sign of popular support in Israel for tougher measures to stop suicide bombings, the country's leading dove, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, came out in favour of using exile as a weapon.

Asked if he supported such a measure, he told Israel Radio:

"As far as I know, it has undergone legal scrutiny, and if legally possible, yes." Assidi, security sources alleged, was responsible for Tuesday's bus ambush near the Jewish settlement of Emmanuel in the West Bank in which eight people were killed and an attack at the same spot in December in which 11 died.

The sources said Ajouri was allegedly behind Wednesday's attack in Tel Aviv's foreign worker neighbourhood in which two suicide bombers killed three people.

"Why are the Israelis punishing the fathers for the actions of their sons," asked Adnan a-Sayfi, mayor the village of Tel, where a home belonging to Assidi's father, Mustafa, was destroyed in what witnesses described as a thunderous blast. *Reuters*

BENGAL WHITE Reuters

A female Bengal white tiger named Betty holds up one of her cubs in a cage of Buenos Aires' Zoo July 18. The tiger gave birth to three cubs, which weighed about one kilogram at birth on June 10, and could weigh 270 kilos (723 pounds) at the age of 15. The Buenos Aires' Zoo is the only zoo in South America where this species of tiger have been born.

Singaporean who beat, burned maid gets 18 years

SINGAPORE—An "inhuman" Singapore man who lost track of the number of times he beat and burned his 19-year-old Indonesian maid was sentenced to more than 18 years' jail and caning Friday after the teenager died from extensive injuries.

Ng Hua Chye, 47, admitted repeatedly attacking Muawanatul Chasanah whose body was found covered in scars, bruises and scald marks.

"There were so many times that I beat her, (I) lost count of them," the father of two told police when arrested.

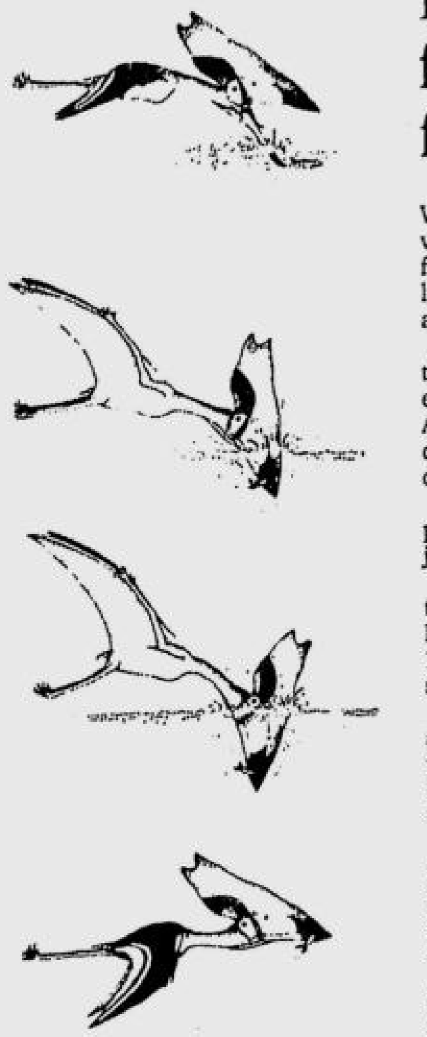
Even his lawyer, Subhas Anandan, described the treatment of the maid as "horrendous". Singapore's first case of a maid being repeatedly beaten until she died has sparked outrage in the city-state, where the judiciary has expressed alarm at the escalating incidents of maid abuse.

An autopsy report detailed more than 200 injuries Muawanatul suffered at the hands of Ng over a period of nine months, starting in March last year.

She had scars over her body where she had been hit by a plastic pipe, cuts in her mouth from being punched, scald marks over her chest, neck and back from hot water, and sores from being jabbed with a hammer. He also burned her with lit cigarettes.

Muawanatul died last December from a ruptured stomach after being punched and kicked in the abdomen. *AFP*

Fossil of 'weird' flying reptile found in Brazil



SCIENTISTS have found the remains of one of the weirdest creatures ever discovered—a flying reptile that lived during the time of dinosaurs that snapped up fish with a scissors-like beak as it skimmed over the water. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—The fossilized skull of a previously unknown Pterosaur—a flying reptile from the age of the dinosaurs—found virtually intact in Brazil suggests it fed by skimming above water on furry wings in search of fish.

The skull of Thalassodromeus sethi—from the Greek for "sea runner"—shows that it sported a large bony crest which paleontologists Alexander W. A. Kellner and Diogenes de Almeida Campos suggest may have been involved in controlling the creature's body temperature.

Details of Kellner and De Almeida Campos's discovery are in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

The unique fossil was unearthed near the town of Santana do Cariri in northeastern Brazil, revealing an animal which lived about 110 million years ago and had a wingspan of some 4.2 meters (14 feet).

The two Brazilian experts, who are both associate researchers at the American Museum of Natural History say that the pterosaur's 1.2-meter-long (four-foot-long) skull sported a hollow bony crest marked with grooves.

The presence of such markings show that the crest had blood vessels close to the skin, suggesting that the structure may have been an aid to temperature control as well as the creature's aerodynamic performance.

Thalassodromeus's jaw structure resembles a modern bird, called a skimmer, that captures its prey by gliding across the surface of a pool and dipping its beak.

The idea that the Pterosaur was a skimmer is further supported by the scissor-like action of its bill and evidence of powerful neck muscles.

Intact fossils of pterosaurs are relatively uncommon as their skeletons were fragile. Incomplete remains have been found of Pterosaurs ranged in size from 20 centimeters (eight inches) to giants like Thalassodromeus. *AFP*

Spanish troops continue to hold disputed isle

BEL YOUNECH, Morocco—Spanish troops began their third day on a barren rock just yards from the North African coast on Friday, and Madrid insisted they would not leave until Morocco promised to leave it unoccupied.

But Spain appeared to scale back a heavy navy presence surrounding the disputed isle of Perejil, leaving just one frigate to protect Spanish forces who on Wednesday threw six Moroccan soldiers off the uninhabited isle in a bloodless raid.

Moroccans kept up a protest vigil on the clifftops overlooking the island they know as Leila until late on Thursday and Rabat came under political pressure to act tough, with opposition calls for a "popular march" against Spain's North African enclaves of Ceuta, just six km away, and Melilla.

Apart from "Get out Spain" the crowd of around 300 chanted:

"Leila, we're ready to reclaim you with our blood" and waved banners declaring "No to the occupation." During the day Spanish navy helicopters had ferried equipment and men to the rock from four nearby ships, swelling the number of soldiers there to around 50.

Morocco claims sovereignty over Perejil (Spanish for parsley), and sent soldiers to hoist its flag there last week.

The move sparked alarm in Madrid which reinforced its military presence in the region, particularly around its North African enclaves, which Rabat has long coveted.

Spain also increased security within Ceuta and Melilla, but despite the presence of riot police, life in the enclaves—which provide work and income for many Moroccans—appeared to carry on as much as normal.

Tension between the two neighbors, which has been rising since October when Morocco withdrew its ambassador from Madrid, appeared to ease somewhat on Thursday after international calls for a peaceful resolution and a return to the "status quo ante".

Spanish radio reported that Arab League Secretary-General Ali Moussa planned to visit Madrid next week in an attempt to bring the two sides to the negotiating table.

Meanwhile the Saudi Press Agency quoted a Saudi foreign ministry official as saying the kingdom backed Morocco "in restoring and preserving its national soil, and regrets Spain's use of force to handle the situation." Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, a no-nonsense right-of-centre leader with a record for confrontation, said he would keep diplomatic channels open to Rabat in a bid to ensure a return to the situation which had prevailed on the 13-hectare island before Morocco occupied it on July 11. *Reuters*

Megawati's first year: Economy up, democracy, reforms down

By Slobodan Lekic

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Megawati Sukarnoputri's first year as president of Indonesia has produced a modicum of stability for the world's largest Muslim country. But corruption is rife and the reforms aimed at remaking the former dictatorship into a full-blooded democracy have stalled.

A year ago Tuesday, Megawati, daughter of the charismatic independence leader Sukarno, replaced Abdurrahman Wahid, Indonesia's first freely elected president. Megawati still enjoys considerable popularity, according to one recent poll, but many Indonesians now doubt she is Indonesia's savior.

"Megawati's record shows that she doesn't have any political concept, that she is not really concerned with the future or this country, but only in making deals on how to survive politically," said Arief Budiman, an Indonesian academic.

Governing Indonesia would tax the most capable leader. The archipelago of 13,000 islands and 210 million people is wracked by ethnic and religious tensions. The four years since the overthrow of the dictatorship have been chaotic, poverty is rife and corruption is scaring off the foreign investors Indonesia badly needs.

As well, the Indonesian army—a pillar of the brutal dictatorship that ran Indonesia for 32 years—has re[illegible]d much of its influence.

Critics charge that Megawati abandoned Wahid's push to strengthen democracy, when she formed an informal coalition with the party of ousted dictator Suharto and top military officers who helped engineer Wahid's ouster by the parliament for alleged incompetence.

"Instead of pushing them back into the barracks, she has brought the military onto the political scene," said Budiman.

Under her administration, the currency is stronger and inflation is down to single digits.

Megawati, [illegible]-year-old university dropout and former housewife who has been married three times, is a reclusive woman who doesn't give interviews and reads only prepared speeches.

She rose to national prominence in 1996 when Suharto's troops attacked her party headquarters. Although never personally in any danger, she instantly became a symbol of resistance to the dictator.

Critics charge her with lacking vision and the ability to grasp the complex problems facing Indonesia.

A poll by the market research firm Taylor Nelson Sofres put her approval rating above 50 percent.

Recently there have been signs that her support may be slipping. Her party has been wracked by infighting with reformists complaining she has sold out to the army and Suharto's Golkar party. AP

13M Africans threatened with starvation-UN

UNITED NATIONS—Widespread food shortages and rampant AIDS have put nearly 13 million southern Africans "on the very edge of survival," the United Nations said on Thursday, appealing for an urgent $611 million in aid.

"There is still an opportunity to avert famine and to save lives, but this window is closing rapidly," UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Kenzo Oshima said.

"I call on the international community and the countries concerned to join hands with the United Nations in a partnership to avert another human tragedy on the African continent," Oshima, speaking on behalf of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, told a meeting at UN headquarters.

UN officials blame the crisis, the region's worst since a deadly 1992 drought, on a combination of severe drought, floods, economic decline and government mismanagement.

The famine has been aggravated by the residual debilitating effects of past conflicts and the region's extremely high AIDS infection rate, which has killed many farmers and left millions of orphans, the officials say.

The 12.8 million people threatened with starvation live in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and about half of them are children, the officials said. Other countries in the region are also threatened although to a lesser extent.

The $611 million in emergency aid would be devoted primarily to immediate food shipments, but the funds would also help prop up agriculture, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and child protection services, a UN statement said.

To help the region better provide for itself over the long term, Annan was naming James Morris, executive director of the Rome-based World Food Program, as his special envoy on the humanitarian crisis in southern Africa, Oshima said.

Morris' task would be to travel to the region and work with governments to ensure a "coherent and complete response to the crisis," Oshima said. He would also work with international donors to ensure aid was used efficiently and went to those most in need.

The emergency appeal would funnel the most money—$285 million—to Zimbabwe, where severe food shortages caused by drought and government land seizures threaten more than 6 million of the country's nearly 14 million people.

Zimbabwe is also severely plagued by AIDS, which has orphaned some 600,000 of its children and infected more than 2.2 million of its current residents, according to UN figures.

Another $144 million would be earmarked for Malawi, where more than 3 million people will require food aid by the end of the year, the United Nations said.

Zambia, where some 2.3 million people need emergency food aid and water due to a prolonged drought, would be allotted $71 million.

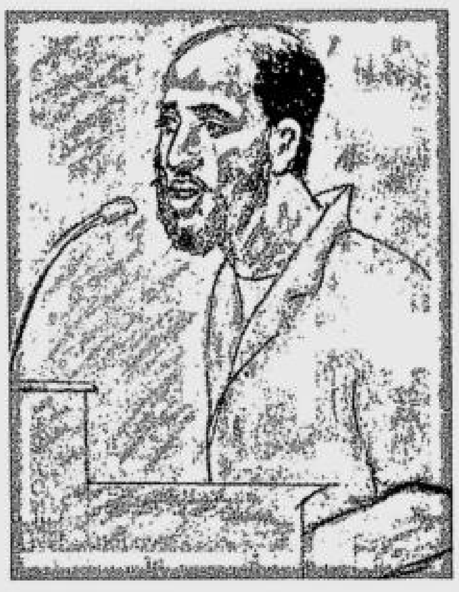
Mozambique, where some 70 percent of the population is living below the poverty line, would get $44 million in aid after floods and other natural disasters destroyed three or four consecutive years of crops in many areas, the United Nations said.

In Lesotho, earmarked for $41 million in emergency aid, about a fifth of the country's 2.2 million people require food aid. About $19 million would go to Swaziland, where 21 percent of the population of 1 million need food assistance after two consecutive disastrous farming seasons, the world body said.

The remaining funds would be used to address the crisis at the regional level, it said. *Reuters*

SAVORING LIFE'S SIMPLE PLEASURES AP

A Chinese man lights up his pipe while relaxing with his pet bird in a Beijing park Friday, July 19. The Chinese characters on his tricycle read "Iron Dragon." Birds are a popular pet in Beijing, where ownership of larger pets like cats and dogs is discouraged by the government.



COURT drawing shows Zacarias Moussaoui as he pleads guilty July 18 during what was supposed to be an arraignment hearing on a new charge. AFP

Moussaoui says he is al-Qaida member, guilty

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Zacarias Moussaoui said on Thursday he was a member of al-Qaida and tried to plead guilty to charges of conspiracy for the Sept. 11 attacks on America, but a federal judge refused to accept his plea.

Moussaoui, facing his third indictment on conspiracy charges, said in court that he had knowledge of the hijacking attacks, was a member of al-Qaida and pledged his allegiance to Osama bin Laden.

When asked to enter a plea to charges spelled out in the latest indictment, Moussaoui first attempted to enter a type of plea that the judge would not accept. When District Judge Leonie Brinkema told him he must choose between "guilty," "not guilty" or no contest—which Brinkema said she would not accept either—he said he wanted to plead guilty.

"Moussaoui Zacarias has entered formally a guilty plea fully and completely and he want to have trial as soon as possible," said Moussaoui.

Brinkema and Moussaoui often clash in court, as the judge attempts to ensure that Moussaoui—who is not a lawyer but is representing himself—understands the law and is aware of what he is doing. In his first arraignment, Moussaoui's lawyers entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf, and in the second Brinkema did the same and refused to accept a "no contest" plea.

Brinkema first said she would be entering a plea of not guilty on Moussaoui's behalf. When he continued to demand that she accept his plea of guilty, she stopped the hearing and said she would reconvene in a week to see if Moussaoui had changed his mind.

Moussaoui said he would not.

"I want to have a plea of guilty, because this will ensure to save my life . . . if I plead guilty I will be able to prove I have certain knowledge of September 11." US officials believe Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent who was being held on immigration violations when the Sept. 11 attacks occurred, was meant to be the 20th hijacker.

Brinkema stopped Moussaoui from talking shortly after he said: "I am a member of al-Qaida, and I pledge bayat (allegiance) to Osama bin Laden." The United States blames bin Laden and his al-Qaida network for the Sept. 11 attacks that killed 3,000 people. *Reuters*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (LAND TITLES AND DEEDS)—Acquisitive prescription—Acquisitive prescription of dominion and other real rights may be ordinary or extraordinary, depending on whether the property is possessed in good faith and with just title for the time fixed by law. For purposes of prescription, there is just title when the adverse claimant came into possession of the property through one of the modes recognized by law for the acquisition of ownership or other real rights, but the grantor was not the owner or could not transmit any right. On the other hand, good faith consists in the reasonable belief that the person from whom the possessor received the thing was its owner but could not transmit the ownership thereof. Acquisitive prescription is a mode of acquiring ownership by a possessor through the requisite lapse of time in order to ripen into ownership, possession, must be in the concept of an owner, public, peaceful and uninterrupted. Thus, possession with a juridical title, such as by a usufructuary, a trustee, a lessee, agent or pledge, not being in the concept of an owner, cannot ripen into ownership by acquisitive prescription unless the juridical relation is first expressly repudiated and such repudiation has been communicated to the other party. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Lubos v. Galupo, G.R. No. 139136, January 18, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 20, 2002
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Mic 2:1-5
Gospel:	Mt. 12:1421

The Pharisees went out and made plans to get rid of him. As Jesus was aware of the plot, he went away from that place. Many people followed him and he cured all who were sick. Then he gave them strict orders not to make him known. In this way Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled: "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, and with whom I am pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him and he will announce my judgment to the nations. He will not argue or shout, nor will his voice be heard in the streets. The bruised reed he will not crush, nor snuff out the smoldering wick. He will persist until justice is made victorious and in him all the nations will put their hope."

Commentary

"Jesus, aware of the plot to kill him, went away from that place." He will not stop his mission, however, he would just change strategies, means and ways. When Father Rhoel was killed by the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group in Basilan, the Claretians missionaries, aware of the plot of the fundamentalist Muslim group to tear down all crosses from the island, had to discern how to continue their mission but with means and ways dictated by prudence. In all humility and faith they published the booklet "The Crosses Still Stand in Basilan, a Journey with the Kidnap Victims." Following the example of Jesus, the Servant of Yahweh, we must continue our mission quietly but steadfastly, with prudence and faith till the new order willed by God is established, "until justice is victorious in the nations."

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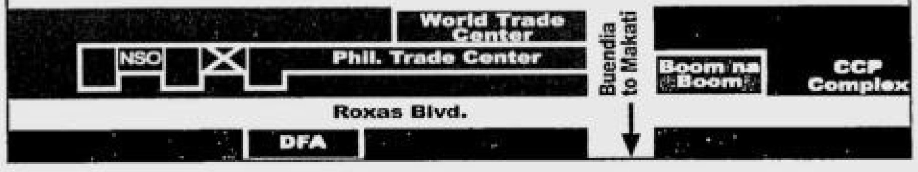

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9936
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

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Nurse shortage seen as foreign jobs lure more nurses to leave

ILIGAN CITY—Nursing schools are scrounging for experienced clinical instructors and the country must brace itself for a shortage of nurses to man its hospitals in the next three to five years.

And the prospects for nurses abroad are so lucrative that many Filipinos including doctors who intend to work as nurses abroad are taking up nursing today.

This state of the country's nursing care and other laments were revealed by two deans of Iligan City's leading schools of nursing, the Mindanao Sanitarium and Hospital College of Medical Arts Foundation, Inc. (MSHCMAF) and the Iligan Medical Center College (IMCC).

Jacqueline Polancos, dean of the MSHCMAF's college of nursing, said soon the country's hospitals will be forced to hire "underboard nursing graduates" because registered nurses are leaving.

Although aware that nurses and clinical instructors are difficult to keep in the country, IMCC College of Nursing Dean Elizabeth Lepiten Alagar brushes away all fears. She remained optimistic that the country is producing enough nursing graduates to replace those who have left or those who are leaving.

"Nursing graduates have to pass the CGFNS exam and they need to qualify first before they can work for hospitals abroad," she said.

About 50 to 60 percent of enrollees in the two colleges are taking up nursing as a second course after obtaining degrees in optometry, dentistry, architecture, education, business management, engineering, physical therapy, medical technology, radiology and medicine.

At the MSHCMAF, 80 percent of freshmen wrote in their application forms during enrolment that they were taking up nursing instead of medicine for "greener pastures."

Polancos said aside from the search for "greener pastures" luring away nurses, there is a demand for nurses in the US and in Europe in the next 20 years because their own nurses are retiring.

"There is a low supply of nurses in those places so recruitment for nurses has increased," she said.

Package deals from recruiting agencies have in turn become irresistible to the country's underpaid, overworked nurses. Review fees for the CFGNS exam are waived. Placement fees and free housing for three months abroad are thrown in and easy terms for loans are made available so nurses can bring their families abroad.

Polancos also said most of the experienced Filipino nurses would like to grow professionally by wanting to work in modern hospitals with hi-tech equipment that are not yet available in the country.

A former colleague at a hospital in Cotabato City now working in the US had told Polancos that the Intensive Care Unit in most local hospitals is equivalent only to a ward section in US hospitals.

Another incentive is that in the US, nurses are respected professionals. Most Filipino nurses perceive that they are not appreciated for the kind of work they do, according to Polancos.

Many doctors who want to work abroad are also taking up nursing courses to pursue their dreams. *Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region will experience rains and occasional gusty winds. Visayas, the rest of Southern and Central Luzon will experience monsoon rains.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	HI 29°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 22°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 36°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	HI 29°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	HI 27°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Rains	HI 29°	Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Monsoon Rains	HI 30°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Rains	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/20/02

ROUNDUP

1 billion trees

DAGUPAN CITY—Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said the Finnish government will finance the planting of a billion trees in the country as part of the government's anti-flood control program. De Venecia said this commitment was reached after his meeting with Finland's First Deputy Speaker Sinkka Liisa Antillam, Director Tarya Laiten of the Asia and Oceania Finnish Ministry, and Tummo Otimaki, vice president of the Metsahllituz Company. Metsahllituz owns and manages 13 million hectares of forests in Finland. De Venecia said the reforestation program will cover the mountains of the Ilocos provinces, Cagayan Valley, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Bicol peninsula, Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Panay and parts of Mindanao. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 pushers held

OLONGAPO CITY—Police arrested on Sunday two suspected drug pushers in a buy-bust operation in Barangay Kalalake here. Detained for illegal possession of drugs and firearms were Johnny Fallorin and Ronald Bautista, both 30. Seized from them were six grams of shabu, a 9mm pistol and P200 in marked money. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Lina assailed

BAGUIO CITY—Artists and cultural workers assailed Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. for not involving them in the formation of local culture and arts councils. They reacted to Lina's memorandum directing local officials to form local culture and arts councils to promote the Filipino culture. In a recent regional workshop on cultural advocacy and good governance at the National Arts Center at Mt. Makiling in Los Baños, Laguna, some 50 participants recommended the inclusion in the councils of artists and professionals involved in architecture, painting, sculpture, dance, music, performance art or theater and literature. They suggested that local art councils should devise their own guidelines relevant to the community. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Hot' lumber found

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Soldiers from the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command chanced upon at least 30,000 board feet of lumber from assorted wood species on Saturday in Sitio Lubayan, Real, Quezon. Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko said the stack of lumber was apparently hastily abandoned by illegal loggers. He said the forest products were hauled from the Umiray River. The Solcom chief said illegal logging in the Real-Infanta-Gen. Nakar (Reina) area thrives with the protection of the New People's Army rebels. He said illegal logging has become another lucrative source of funds for the communist rebels. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Female bet robbed

LEGAZPI CITY—At least 10 heavily armed men robbed a female barangay captain aspirant in Masbate of an estimated P350,000 worth of personal property a day before the synchronized barangay and youth elections. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police director, identified the victim as Enriqueta Malana, 54, a candidate in Barangay Alino, Dimasalang town. Galang said the robbers, who were carrying long firearms and wearing camouflage uniforms, took P150,000 worth of assorted jewelry and P200,000 worth of debt receipts, aside from several pieces of valuable real state documents. He said three of the suspects were armed with Carbine rifle, M203 grenade launcher and an Uzi machine pistol. *Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

3 arrested for drugs

DAET, Camarines Norte—Operatives from different units of the Philippine National Police-Bicol office arrested three persons separately for possession of illegal drugs. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police director, identified the suspects as Edwin Abrecinos and Rosalio Barnedo Jr., both residents of Barangay Kabuluan, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte, and Christopher Bercilla of Barangay Poblacio, Sta. Elena. Police found 14 pieces of small plastic sachets containing marijuana weighing 3.1 grams, P114,000 in cash, one marked P500-bill, a 9mm pistol, a .22-cal. revolver, ammunition and drug paraphernalia. Found in the possession of Bercilla were 12 pieces of small plastic sachets containing suspected shabu weighing 1.6 grams. *Bing Abaño, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Vigilantes strike again

DIGOS CITY—A vigilante group here struck again, killing a suspected drug pusher on Monday morning. Senior Supt. Samuel Navaja, Davao del Sur police chief, said the victim remained unidentified. Navaja said the victim was standing on Rizal Avenue when a suspect, onboard a motorcycle, shot him. Before leaving, the suspect left an envelope with the words "magnanakaw, pusher, huwag tularan" written on it. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

UN exec says bid for peace lacking

MAGPET, Cotabato—The government is trying its best but its best is still not enough to bring peace and development in the war-torn areas of Mindanao.

This was the assessment of an official of the United Nations Multi-Donor Program (UNMDP) said.

Ronello Desaban, UNMDP area coordinator for Central Mindanao, said despite efforts of the government to alleviate the living conditions of Mindanaoans who were affected by war, many of them are still displaced—something that the government failed to see.

In the outskirt villages of Pikit town, thousands of families remain "homeless" despite the government's rehabilitation projects, Desaban said. The same is happening in other areas of Mindanao, he said.

"Our hearts bleed everytime we see this. There are still thousands of them and the government is not seeing this," Desaban said. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

REMEMBERING THE DEAD TOOTS SOBERANO
A man performs a ritual during a recent commemoration of the July 1990 killer earthquake that struck Baguio and Luzon and claimed scores of lives.

Fracas ensues as cops try to arrest cop

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Policemen, who were trained to apprehend hardened criminals, had a hard time arresting one of their own inside the Hall of Justice here on Thursday.

Members of the Jaro District police precinct played cat-and-mouse with Insp. Rudy Celis who refused to be arrested for a criminal offense.

The policemen were supposed to arrest Celis based on an arrest warrant issued by Judge Evelyn Salao of the Municipal Trial Court Branch 4 for a charge of prohibition, interruption and dissolution of peaceful meetings. The offense carries a penalty of a minimum of six months and one day to six years imprisonment.

The arresting team led by Senior Insp. Robert Foerster, chief of the Jaro police precinct, tried to arrest Celis who was about to attend a hearing of another case at the Iloilo City prosecutor office.

But the police officer argued with Foerster and shouted at the policemen. After he was briefly pacified, a scuffle broke out at the lobby of the Hall of Justice as Celis insisted on claiming the handgun he earlier deposited to the security guards at the entrance of the building.

Breaking loose from more than five policemen who wrestled with him, Celis ran to the sala of Judge Salao where he holed himself up for an hour.

"This is a small case and I will face this. I am a police officer . . . just don't harass me," said Celis. He accused Foerster of preventing him from calling his wife who was arranging his bail amounting to P6,000.

Foerster denied the accusations saying he was "merely implementing a lawful order."

Celis later posted bail and left the Hall of Justice accompanied by his wife Nemia and lawyer Leopoldo Salcedo.

The incident disrupted work at the Hall of Justice for nearly three hours after court employees, lawyers, judges and reporters watched the fracas.

Owwa workers protest plan to abolish agency

ILOILO CITY—Employees of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) in Iloilo and Tacloban City, Leyte have joined protests against Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Fourteen employees of the Owwa-Western Visayas office yesterday wore black clothes at work as they joined nationally coordinated protests, which called for Sto. Tomas' ouster.

They also collected about 3,000 signatures in Iloilo for their campaign to oust Sto. Tomas. These included the signatures of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and their families.

Employees of the Owwa-Eastern Visayas office in Tacloban City also collected 3,000 signatures for their own petition against the embattled labor secretary.

Among the signatories were OFWs from the provinces of Biliran, Leyte, Northern Samar and Western Samar.

The Owwa employees were protesting policies of the labor department under Sto. Tomas, which they said were "anti-labor, anti-migrant workers and anti-government employees."

Lower pay

Among the policies was the signing of an agreement with the Saudi Arabian government, which lowered the minimum monthly wage of unskilled OFWs.

The agreement, signed in May this year, also declared welfare centers outside the Philippine embassies and consulates as illegal, which would virtually treat OFWS who seek shelter in the centers as criminals, according to a petition being circulated by the Owwa employees.

Azucena Hisole, Owwa director for Western Visayas, said the more than 500 Owwa employees nationwide also feared the loss of their jobs with the imminent dissolution of the government agency.

She said Owwa programs like reintegration of OFWs, welfare and medical assistance would be integrated with other government agencies and departments.

"This effectively dissolves the Owwa because these are our main programs," Hisole said.

In Baguio, Owwa employees said welfare officers detailed abroad are going to be the next casualties of the ongoing feud between Sto. Tomas and Owwa Administrator Wilhelm Soriano.

Conflict

They made the disclosure here on Thursday after a rally by Owwa employees and militant group members that targeted Sto. Tomas for "camouflaging the abolition of the Owwa using her feud with Soriano."

The ongoing feud between Sto. Tomas and Soriano was a "convenient ploy" to implement these changes, the protesters said.

Leo Legaspi, chair of the activist Migrante International, said the target of the feud is an accumulated P12 billion trust fund from OFW donations.

He said a reengineering of the bureaucracy would dissolve the trust fund and cause its absorption into the national treasury.

The fund is used exclusively for OFWs, Legaspi said. "The Macapagal administration needs OFW money because it is the only industry left that will keep the government working. There is no other industry she can depend on . . . It is also the only industry which can help her keep a (2001 State of the Nation Address pledge) to create one million new jobs," he said.

The Sto. Tomas-Soriano feud was ignited by this trust fund, after the labor secretary questioned Soriano's disbursement of some P500 million in OFW money for side investments, Owwa sources said.

Sto. Tomas denied any attempts to abolish Owwa.

But Owwa officials said certain bureaucratic changes already confirmed their agency's imminent abolition.

Evelyn Laranang, Owwa Cordillera supervisor, said Sto. Tomas has formed a special assistance bureau for overseas workers despite the existence of similar Owwa programs.

Sto. Tomas also asked the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth) to assume jurisdiction over a special medicare package for overseas workers, Laranang said.

"(Philhealth's charter) does not cover overseas medical benefits," she said. *Nestor Burgos Jr. and Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau and Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◈ *Bureau Chief* **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Garbage dump becomes 'ecological park'

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Sta. Barbara, Iloilo

THE GARBAGE dump in this northern town is called "Ecological Park" because, instead of mounds of fetid garbage and army of scavengers, the park has fruit trees and vegetable plots.

The 2.4 hectare-park, located at Barangay Daga, is everything but a garbage dump. It houses a nursery, a seminar area, a recycling shed, fruit trees plantation and vegetable garden.

Garbage, often the biodegradable shredded market refuse, is confined to a small area where they are scooped into huge pits and covered by layers of earth.

The establishment of the park is a new tack in dealing with solid waste, once a scourge in this town located about 16 kilometers from the Iloilo City.

Initially launched to boost the town's rating in the provincial Clean and Green contest, the park is fast becoming a model in solid waste management in Iloilo province.

Sta. Barbara Mayor Isabelo Maquino would like to believe that his town, known as a cradle of revolutionaries against the Spanish and the American colonizers, continues to make history by revolutionizing its age-old garbage disposal system.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF ILOILO
MUNICIPALITY OF STA.BARBARA
PLANT NURSERY

THE NURSERY shed stands at one end of the Ecological Park, the other name for the Sta. Barbara garbage dump.

MA. DIOSA LABISTE

The town's old open dump used to stand in a 700-square meter lot at the back of its market and the slaughterhouse and beside an overflowing spring where many families get their water for drinking and washing.

"The old dump was an eyesore and a breeding site of all sorts of diseases. We have no choice but to decommission it," said municipal administrator Glenn Beup.

Two months after Maquino assumed as mayor in July 2001, the town bought a property in Barangay Daga. The mayor's move was first opposed by Daga residents at the time because of the news about the tragedy in Payatas dumpsite that killed several people and the stand-off at proposed dumpsite in Semirara, Antique.

Beup recalled the new dump was opened through Maquino's "political will," the oft-repeated phrase in local governance to mean that a local chief executive wants to get things done, no matter what.

Last May, Sta. Barbara conducted training on solid waste management and formed a local solid waste management board, which is the first to be organized in Iloilo province.

The town also passed an ordinance on solid waste, directing households and commercial establishments to segregate their wastes into biodegradable and non-biodegradable.

Households are asked to take care of their garbage because the dump is reserved to commercial and market refuse that yield about 20 sacks on ordinary days and 50 sacks every market days which fall on a Tuesday and a Friday. The market refuse is fed to a shredder before they are brought to the dump.

To make the ordinance work, the sanitary and utility workers refuse to collect garbage that is not segregated. As a result, Beup said they noticed a 70 percent reduction of the biodegradable refuse.

The old dump was then transformed into a community vegetable garden. What used to be mounds of smelly garbage [illegible]ow a garden of sweet potato, eggplant and corn.

The municipal government also prohibits scavengers from coming into the new dumpsite but it plans to organize communities near the area to till vegetable plots inside the dumpsite. These communities will benefit from compost that the garbage pits yield.

The P400,000, which is being used for the solid waste project comes from the town's 20 percent development fund as well as from its beautification fund. The town does not collect garbage fees.

The town's effort is now being noticed by evaluators of the annual Clean and Green contest of the Iloilo province. From being on the last rungs in the category of fourth to sixth class towns in the past years, Sta. Barbara is eighth among the "Magic 8" winners this year.

The Philippine-Canada's Local Government Support Program was also impressed by the Sta. Barbara's solid waste management program that it sent consultants to visit the Ecological Park, and pledged support to the environment projects.

Barangay woes

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonarda

THE NOTICE given by the Commission on Elections to local executives that they should allocate funds as their counterpart in the expenses in the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections held on Monday sent the officials in both Negros provinces into a flurry of protests.

Most bothered were the smaller towns that did not have enough resources even for their own operations. A town mayor in Negros Occidental expressed concern that, with the short notice given, they may have to realign funds—but what would the Commission on Audit say to that?

The new Comelec chairman may be eager to have his presence felt. But the sudden changes and innovations that were being introduced could upset whatever best-laid plans his local representatives may have set up in preparation for the elections.

In Negros Oriental, the election supervisor described their position as "very embarrassing" when they had to take back the warning they had given to candidates about acts that were considered violations, and which were announced by the Comelec head office as no longer prohibited.

"What was illegal yesterday is now legal," a report from Dumaguete said, as the start of an article narrating the quandary the Comelec officials had found themselves in when the new rules of the game came out.

Now local officials can campaign for the barangay candidates, and those who can afford it can advertise themselves.

***

The barangay candidates and the Comelec officials had their own problems. For Negros Occidental and Bacolod City, it was time to render reports for top officials. They had already delivered the State of the Province for one and State of the City for the other. Gov. Joseph Maranon obviously passed with flying colors.

It was not so for Bacolod City Mayor Luzviminda Valdez who did not invite the vice mayor and the city councilors to her State of the City Address that she delivered away from the city hall.

She had as audience friendly barangay officials, recipients of recently dispensed funds and mprojects that were questioned.

Valdez apologized when Vice Mayor Ramiro Garcia aired the snub, but the breach had not even healed when another irritant came up. Perceived to be rattled by moves for her recall, the mayor had been desperately trying to pile up some *pogi* points to make up for what was being scored as an uneventful administration.

On July 8, her office showed reporters the results of a survey conducted by the local office Department of Interior and Local Governments showing her rating at an astounding high of 91.51.

The City Council headed by the vice mayor was rated zero. What aggravated matters was when the DILG staff refused to show the report until court action was warned.

But the DILG "results" could have been expected. When the recall moves were first announced, the DILG head had been reported to appear on TV virtually defending the mayor. From the reactions of the vice mayor and the councilors, however, he faces a lot of questions on the survey.

Another cause for concern in the city was an expose about the mayor's having released funds and projects, and purchased vehicles for some barangay captains without the funds going through prescribed procedures.

***

The cause of women suffered a blow in the very first sexual harassment case in Bacolod City. A terminated casual worker, Rosario Bendanillo, complained that when she asked an executive assistant of Valdez to help her get reinstated, he took her to a motel and asked for certain favors.

After a year, the mayor's decision came out. But instead of suspending Sancho Nagar, her assistant, she said she was terminating him not for the harassment, but for lying to her.

Nagar denied but later admitted taking the woman to the motel.

To rub salt on wound, she said the harassment took place once—that the girl and Nagar were friends; that the complaint was not corroborated; and that it was "between two consenting adults."

Charity only hope of boy, 9, with leukemia

By Joy de la Peña
Cebu City

RONEL Dablo, 9, is balding. It has nothing to do with premature aging. It has nothing to do with the "in" look of young boys intentionally shaving their heads clean.

Ronel is going bald because he lost his hair after going through chemotherapy.

Until a year ago, Ronel was like any normal young boy. His family was poor—his father is a part-time construction worker—but they were happy.

Ronel's only "ambition in life" is to finish school and become a professional so he could help his parents. But he would not be able to attain his dream, unless he gets help for the chemotherapy that he badly needs.

Ronel, 9, of Barangay Uling, Naga, Cebu, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

The day Ronel came to the INQUIRER Visayas Bureau office with his mother, Nilda, he looked extremely ill. He had a cap on to hide his balding head. He refused to talk.

Nilda, 33, said his son wished to finish school to become a professional someday.

Nilda said that Dr. Jose Antonio Quitevis, her son's attending physician, had told the family that Ronel was still on level one of his leukemia and has a great chance to survive the illness. He recommended that he undergo four years of chemotherapy.

However, he needs money to sustain the chemotherapy and buy medicines, which cost some P10,000 a month.

Since the time Ronel was diagnosed with leukemia in January 2001, Nilda had been to several charitable institutions to seek help.

She first went to the ABS-CBN Tabang Patrol, the charitable arm of the network's TV Patrol news program. Nilda was relieved and could not thank the television network enough for shouldering the cost of Ronel's chemotherapy for one year until December 2001.

Nilda, in tears, said she had been poor most of her life but she had always worked, at times as a laundry woman, to put food on the table. She had never begged for anything, much less for money, until Ronel got sick.

'Last January, Nilda started soliciting help from relatives and from some councilors of Naga town. She also begged for assistance from a number of foundations, like the "Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko."

But they could only offer so much help. Nilda was now desperate. She said she did not anymore know what to do to keep up the treatment that her son badly needs.

"Unya asa man tawon ko ana nga kwarta," (I don't know where to find that kind of money), she said.

Ronel's chemotherapy would usually fall on the last week of the month. Nilda said that if she would be delayed in going to the hospital, Ronel would be sick.

Last month, Ronel was scheduled for chemotherapy on June 24 but Nilda only managed to find the money on June 28. By that time, Ronel was already suffering from high fever.

Ronel has stopped attending school because, according to Nilda, the doctor had warned her that he could not be placed in an environment where he may be able to acquire viral diseases.

Ronel is the second of Nilda's three children. The oldest, a boy, is 12 and the youngest, a girl, is only six months old.

With Ronel's illness, the whole family had to sacrifice.

Nilda said that she and her husband sold their house for only P7,000 to the owner of the lot where they stayed just to pay for Ronel's chemotherapy this June.

They live now in a sister's house, also in Uling, Naga.

Ronel will need to go through another chemotherapy session by the end of this month. But with all the money gone and her husband not having found a job yet, Nilda said she could only hope that some kindhearted donors would come to the aid of her son.

(Inquiries regarding donations may be coursed through the PDI Visayas Bureau, Cebu Daily News Compound, 18-15 Escario St., Cebu City, tel. no. 233-03-49)

RONEL and his mother at the PDI Visayas Bureau office.

ALLAN DEFENSOR

Cory feels sorry for Gloria: They all get kinder when . . .

From page A1

Arroyo regarding the brickbats the latter has been getting.

"Sometimes, I feel sorry for the President," Aquino said in her brief address during the launch of her second book, "Inspirations and Images," at the Filipinas Heritage Library late yesterday afternoon.

"I guess I could say they all get kinder when you leave the presidency," Aquino said with a smile, drawing laughter and applause from her audience.

"It was also not too long ago when I couldn't seem to do anything right," said the former President who weathered not only seven coup attempts but also harsh criticism for some of her political and economic decisions.

Aquino was one of the few people that then Vice President Macapagal conferred with during the dying days of the Estrada administration.

"Inspirations and Images" was commissioned by the SGV Foundation in cooperation with the Ninoy Aquino Foundation.

It includes Aquino's speeches and some of her paintings—the result of a hobby that she took up seriously in 1996, four years after she left the presidency.

"The only thing that gives (my paintings) real value is my signature," Aquino quipped, laughing. "I might as well make good use of my name."

Among those at Aquino's book launch were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, her only son, Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III and her daughters Ballsy and Kris.

The presence of Kris, a former movie actress and now TV host, somewhat belied speculation that she had again fallen from her mother's good graces.

Earlier, Congressman Aquino went on record to say that his family was uncomfortable with Kris' relationship with Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, lately estranged from wife Alma Moreno.

But yesterday, the former President did not say whether she thought the source of the discomfort would soon pass.

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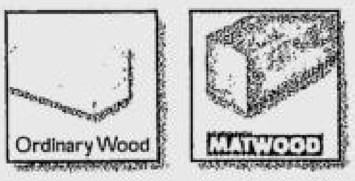

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Jawo, Sotto set to break Senate tie

From page A1

But Sotto stressed that there was no politics involved in his appointment.

"It was not important that I belong to the LDP while the President is with the Lakas-NUCD party. *Walang parti-partido dito.* What is at stake here is the future of our youth who are targets of drug traders. This is my principal consideration," Sotto said.

As vice mayor of Quezon City from 1989 to 1992, Sotto was the chair of the city's Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

A Malacañang source said Sotto would serve as the "overseer" in the setting up and operation of the Presidential Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), the super body created under Republic Act No. 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act 2002.

The PDEA is the country's version of the US Drug Enforcement Agency.

"I was invited and I accepted," Sotto told the INQUIRER. "The PDEA was my brainchild as I was the principal author of the law."

Leaders of the two opposing sides in the Senate had been conducting marathon meetings on how to iron out their differences and break the even split in their ranks.

Ople, who became Senate President Pro Tempore during a coup by opposition senators last June 3, earlier offered the post back to Sen. Manny Villar, who held the same position in the administration bloc.

Villar replied that like Ople, he was willing to give up the job if this would bring about cooperation.

Last Thursday, Senators Loren Legarda and Aquilino Pimentel followed suit, offering to leave the post of majority floor leader which they both occupied. Yesterday, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay offered the committee on defense and national security to his co-chair, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

Last month an exasperated Biazon had observed that both camps in the Senate had been pursuing "poaching raids'" on each other.

"Courting and counter-courting (potential party recruits) are a tool of politics. Anybody who tells you courting is not happening is lying," Biazon said.

As it turns out, the Macapagal administration appears to be the winning suitor with Jaworski, Sotto and possibly Ople already succumbing to its importuning.

Ties that bind

Ms Macapagal has had close political ties with Sotto in the past. They were party mates in Kabalikat ng Masang Pilipino (Kampi) which was founded in 1997 by former Rep. Jose Cojuangco for Sotto and then Senator Macapagal's run for higher office. Under the Kampi banner, she was all set to run in the 1998 presidential race as vice president to Sotto. What was heralded as the team to beat collapsed when news reports linked Sotto to the drug trade.

Ms Macapagal junked Sotto and agreed to be the running mate of Speaker Jose de Venecia under the Lakas-NUCD banner.

More overtures

The President admitted holding an "informal" talk recently with Sen. Blas Ople about the stewardship of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

During lunch yesterday with Congress reporters, the President said she met with the opposition senator after his return from the United States early this month.

She said Malacañang's proposal for Ople to head the DFA was discussed, but reiterated there was no formal offer.

"We talked about it but not explicitly," was how Ms Macapagal put it. She did not elaborate.

She confirmed that she offered Ople the job in December last year when she and then DFA boss Teofisto Guingona were having "policy differences."

Speaking at a Senate press conference, Ople was just as circumspect. He said he was pondering administration overtures, although there was still no offer.

Government emissaries had been asking him to join the Macapagal Cabinet, Ople said, among them presidential consultant Dante Ang, who "personally" met with him in the United States.

Tonight, he said, he would consult with leaders of his province, Bulacan, who were against his taking the post. However, the solon said his personal mail was running three to one in favor of accepting once a formal offer was made.

Ople volunteered to be a "bridge of reconciliation" between the administration and the opposition. He said he would seriously consider the DFA portfolio only after genuine unity was achieved in the Senate.

He called for an end to the "politics of gridlock," deploring the "chronic stalemate" not only in the Senate but in other areas of government, and public institutions.

Speaking of which Ople, who is current chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said there was no need to submit the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) between the Philippines and the United States for Senate ratification.

This view was opposed to that of his colleague, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who earlier urged President Macapagal to submit the document for Senate scrutiny.

Ople said the pact had been crafted well within the framework of the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951 and the Visiting Forces Agreement of 1999. He stressed that the agreement should be signed in time for the visit of US State Secretary Colin Powell early next month. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana***

Fil-Ams, mad scientists set to join protest marches

From page A1

"She will concentrate on the more basic and perceived problems that need solutions," Bunye said. Last Thursday, he said Ms Macapagal would focus on peace and order as well as the high cost of power.

The President confirmed this at a luncheon yesterday with Congress reporters, saying the emphasis of her Sona would be on fighting kidnapping, illegal drugs and smuggling, as well as her plans on high power rates.

The "goal is not the crime but the criminal," she said, lamenting the fact that while authorities had been able to seize smuggled goods, the smugglers had gone scot-free.

Key legislation

In an ambush interview, Bunye said the President would seek "cooperation (from Congress) for the passage of key legislation that will help propel the country forward."

Among these measures is a franchise law covering the state-owned National Transmission Corp. and envisioned to further cut power rates, an anti-terrorism law, and the Senate's own version of the proposed Special Purpose Asset Vehicle bill that the House has approved, he said.

Bunye also said the President was closely monitoring developments related to efforts in breaking the Senate impasse, which he said had derailed her economic programs to a certain extent.

But Gabriela-USA spokesperson Ivy Climacosa said that "as Filipinos living in America, we recognize the necessity for (Ms Macapagal) to act upon the issues concerning Filipinos abroad, especially since she is now the acting foreign affairs secretary."

Victims of discrimination

Climacosa said more and more Filipinos in the United States were being victimized by "racist and discriminatory policies" implemented under US President George W. Bush's "war on terror."

She said that as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, at least 416 Filipinos-had been deported, and that many others lost their jobs after being tagged as possible terrorists.

Glenn Aquino, chair of the Filipinos for Global Justice, Not War, warned that more Filipinos would lose their jobs in the course of the US anti-terrorism campaign.

Aquino pointed out that under the Airport Transportation Security Act, thousands of immigrant airport baggage screeners stood to lose their jobs "simply because they are not US citizens."

"And President Macapagal-Arroyo hasn't even made a peep of protest against this," he noted.

Agham's Tapang said the state of science and technology in the Philippines was so deplorable that even state-sponsored science scholars faced unemployment.

He cited a recent survey conducted by the UP Statistical Research Center showing that around 53 percent of scholar-graduates were jobless.

"(The President's) promise of promoting information technology did not even materialize as thousands of IT graduates are clamoring for jobs," he said.

The senators' problem

At the luncheon in Malacañang, the President fended off questions on what she would do with the impasse at the Senate.

"That's largely (the senators') problem," she said. "My bigger concern is what to do now . . . and we have to address the peace and order problem."

She reminded reporters that a recent survey by the Makati Business Club showed that 82 percent of businessmen wanted her to immediately act on the issue.

She said there was no need for her to form a body to address this.

The President also defended her appointment of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as her anti-crime consultant.

She said Duterte—who drew flak from various sectors for his controversial statements in fighting crime—was highly recommended by Davao businessmen for the job.

Both the President and Bunye said her Sona would be shorter—"22 pages compared to last year's 30 pages."

Earlier, Ms Macapagal said she was working on two drafts prepared separately by her spokesperson-on-leave Rigoberto Tiglao and her principal speechwriter, Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable.

Last Thursday, Malacañang released a 91-page report titled "GMA Delivers!" that "claimed full or substantial accomplishment in all but a few of the 55 objectives" she set last year.

But in a statement, House Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico and Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said Malacañang's figures were "deceptive and defective" in "an effort to gloss over the harsh reality that her government was a failure."

Suplico said, "her statistics can never stand to dispute the fact that life is now more difficult nowadays because of mismanagement and misplaced priorities."

Remulla said that the peace and order situation was "at its worst condition," and that a number of people were concerned for their safety.

Failed promises

Indignant farmers assailed Malacañang's report on the President's supposed accomplishments, saying she failed to distribute agricultural and ancestral land as she had promised.

The administration distributed only 104,261 hectares of private and government-owned agricultural land last year, as against the President's target of 200,000 hectares to be given under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program every year, the Alyansa ng mga Kilusang Magsasaka (Kilos-Saka) said.

The alliance of 11 farmers' federations nationwide also said the President had not given a single title to ancestral land despite her promise to distribute 100 certificates of ancestral domain title to indigenous people.

Kilos-Saka spokesperson Cenon Nolasco said the accomplishments registered by the Department of Agrarian Reform last year was the "lowest accomplishment in the entire CARP history."

"Even with the same reenacted budget, (deposed President Joseph) Estrada was able to distribute more land than President Macapagal," Nolasco said, citing DAR data.

The Kilos-Saka also assailed the President for failing to distribute the vast land holdings of her husband's family in Negros Occidental, which she surrendered to the DAR last year to serve as an example to other landowners.

It said her only commendable achievement last year was the active pursuit of the coconut levy funds, which are also being claimed by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Joining forces

The pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), which led last year's May 1 siege on Malacañang, and the militant group Sanlakas formalized a tactical alliance yesterday and pledged to mobilize 60,000 protesters to drown out the President's Sona on Monday.

"Different our origins may be, we are now meeting at the crossroads for a common purpose, and that is to express the truth and call for reforms," the two groups said in a unity statement read by their leaders in a news conference in Quezon City.

"We have to paint the true picture of the masses' situation because President Macapagal-Arroyo will decorate with manipulated data and pepper with lies her Sona," they said. ***With reports from Blanche S. Rivera and Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Gloria target of dirty trick operators

From page A1

Malacañang, which they thought to be invitations to the event.

The card's face, in full color, shows a smiling Ms Macapagal wearing pearls and a blue dress and holding a red rose in full bloom. It is obviously an old photograph because her hair is long and tied back.

But reporters were surprised to discover what was written inside: a parody of the "Panatang Makabayan (Oath of Allegiance)" that made fun of the President's height. The card was made to appear that she herself sent it.

The mock oath, titled "Panata ko sa Bayan (Ang Pandak: Sona 2002)," had the President swearing to betray not only the country but her family as well.

It also contained an ethnic slur against Pampangos like her, describing them as traitors and canines.

When sought for reaction, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the card smacked of "cheap gimmickry" by quarters he hinted as belonging to the opposition.

"This indicates how low they can get," he said.

Asked who could have orchestrated the caper, Bunye said: "I think we know whom we are talking about."

Christmas card

Old hands in the Malacañang Press Corps (MPC) recalled that sometime in December 2000 at the height of the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada, they also received trick Christmas cards.

The cards supposedly sent by then Vice President Macapagal were signed by her as though she were already the President.

A few weeks ago, MPC members also received by mail a "white paper" accusing certain Palace-based reporters and those in other beats of questionable activities ranging from receiving grease money to engaging in sex escapades.

A number of those named have written reports critical of the administration.

MPC old hands believe it was the Palace's own dirty tricks department, composed of press officials, that prepared the "white paper."

Puno's former . . .

From page A1

cian. He always emerged at the top of his class," said an insider at the PNP.

Aware of the opposition of civil society groups to Puno and other so-called "henchmen" of her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada, the President denied that Puno had recommended Avenido to her.

She said a Palace search committee had endorsed Avenido, a 1967 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

Estrada appointed Avenido interior undersecretary on May 25, 1999. At the time he was PNP deputy director general who headed the Philippine Center for Transnational Crimes (PCTC).

Puno had reportedly recommended Avenido for that post. Also according to reports, he is an uncle-in-law of Estrada son Jinggoy.

Ms Macapagal told the INQUIRER at a dinner two weeks ago that she would appoint Puno as anti-drug consultant.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo said he had asked the brothers Ronaldo and Ricardo Puno and Jaime Policarpio to "help" the administration. Ricardo Puno and Policarpio served as Estrada's press secretary and legislative liaison officer, respectively.

The President later had to assure civil society groups that she had not offered the so-called "Estrada henchmen" posts in her administration.

'Shabu' bust

Ms Macapagal yesterday demonstrated her resolve to stamp out drug syndicates by making an unscheduled visit to a shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) laboratory in Quezon City that police raided the other day. ***(See story in Metro, Page A23.)***

She inspected the house in Varsity Village, Loyola Heights, and later personally congratulated PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Interior Secretary Lina, PNP National Capital Region chief Edgardo Aglipay and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte for the raid.

In brief remarks at the site, the Pr[illegible] administration's political will to stop the illegal drug trade.

She said the PNP under her administration had more drug-bust operations than under the previous administration.

"Illegal drugs have always been around but it is only now that the police are doing so many drug busts," she said. "We can now see my administration's political will. This is now the war against drug pushers, drug dealers and criminal syndicates."

One of the things the President is expected to announce in her State of the Nation Address on Monday is her plan to organize the PDEA and Dangerous Drugs Board within a month ***(Related story on Page A1)***.

This is in accordance with the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, which provides for the creation of the two bodies and which Congress passed last month.

Approval

Ms Macapagal told Congress reporters at a luncheon yesterday that the Chinese-Filipino community approved of Avenido.

She said the community did not want Fernandez to head the anti-drug task force, so he was made deputy chief.

She also said Avenido could have been PNP chief but that his transfer to the Department of Interior and Local Government in 1999 paved the way for Panfilo Lacson, now a senator, to take the top PNP post.

Estrada appointed Lacson as PNP chief in November 1999.

When Edmundo Larroza took over as PNP officer in charge in April 1999 after Roberto Lastimoso went on leave because of charges of coddling a drug lord, Avenido was appointed deputy chief for administration—the No. 2 post.

He served in that position until he was named PCTC executive director a few months later. Leandro Mendoza, now transportation secretary, later replaced him as PCTC head in December 1999.

That was the time Puno took Avenido in as his undersecretary, according to a source in the PNP w[illegible]uested anonymity. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio***

Abused maids fight back in Jordan, HK, NY

From page A1

days later. She had previously worked for three other employers without encountering any problems.

"I can do everything with my left hand. This is the first and only time I've been discriminated against because of it," she told the newspaper.

Cabanilla is seeking unspecified damages for "mental anguish" and "distress" under the disability discrimination ordinance, which was enacted in July 1997.

London

In Jordan, four Filipino domestic workers were acquitted of theft charges in separate decisions by Amman's Court of First Instance, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Ruperto Dizon, Philippine ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, said the courts found the four workers "innocent" because they were only victims of their respective employers. He said the employers filed the charges because they wanted to cover up their own abuses against the workers, who had signified their intention to leave their jobs.

Dizon identified the acquitted workers as Susanna Ramos, Nora Talib, Evangeline Sabado and Sally Iñigo.

The four were all undocumented workers and victims of illegal recruitment. They were accused of stealing money, jewelry and other valuables from their respective employers.

"The abusive employers accused Filipino house helpers of theft to cover up their own abuses, to escape the responsibility of paying the penalties of the workers, to deny the workers of their unpaid salaries," Dizon said in a report to the DFA

He said domestic workers in Jordan "invariably suffer from physical maltreatment, verbal abuse, sexual harassment (and sometimes rape), heavy workload and long working hours." They have no rest and day-off and their salaries are delayed or not paid at all.

Dizon said the deployment of household workers to Jordan is allowed only if the employers are members of the Royal Family, are Jordanian government ministers or are diplomats based in Jordan.

A ban has been imposed to prevent Filipino workers from coming to Jordan but, Dizon said, 80 to 100 Filipino workers continue to arrive in Jordan every month. Most of them, he said, circumvent the ban by leaving Manila as tourists.

UN picket

In New York City, a group of housekeepers and nannies, mostly immigrants from Asian countries, picketed the United Nations headquarters last Saturday to protest the maltreatment of a Filipina domestic helper whose passport was seized by her employer, an Egyptian envoy.

Chanting "justice for the victims," members of the Domestic Workers United also said there were several pending lawsuits against high-level diplomats for tens of thousands of dollars in back pay.

"Diplomats are supposed to enforce human rights laws, how could we trust them to do their jobs when they are violating the law right inside their own homes," said Ai-Jen Poo, an organizer for the group.

There are more than 600,000 domestic workers in New York City who toil day and night but are unprotected by labor laws. In recent years, dozens of cases have been filed by domestic workers against their diplomat-employers.

Gloria Echevarria, 60, a Filipino household helper for Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Aboul Gheit, used to be tight-lipped on how abusive her employers were.

She was abruptly dismissed from her job last month and her passport confiscated after she complained about her long working hours.

Echeverria said she was forced to sew dresses, curtains and comforters until the wee hours although her contract stipulated that she was supposed to work only as a housekeeper. She claimed she could not get food in the house when she grew hungry because the ambassador's family would lock the refrigerator and pantry.

She claimed that the ambassador's wife had abused her emotionally and verbally. For three years, she said, she worked for the ambassador's household from 6 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. for $1,400 a month.

Her lawyers plan to file a civil case to get back unpaid wages and overtime pay amounting to $25,000.

Echevarria and other nannies and housekeepers picket the Egyptian Mission in midtown New York every week, demanding for the payment of unpaid wages and overtime pay and the return of her passport.

The ambassador refused to be interviewed. His staff said Echevarria had been dismissed for failure to do her duties well.

Special visas

Domestic helpers working for diplomats hold special visas that bind them to their diplomat-employers. Those who leave their employers become undocumented aliens. In addition, most diplomats have immunity that shields them from accountability or prosecution for labor and criminal violations.

When domestic helpers are abused, they cannot file labor cases because they are not classified as employees, said Carolyn De Leon, a former nanny and the head of the Women Workers' Project for Organizing Asian Communities.

Several workers' rights groups are lobbying the New York City Council to pass a bill that would protect domestic workers, many of whom complain of harsh working conditions, low pay and lack of job security.

City Council member Gale Brewer, who spoke during the UN headquarters picket, said employers and domestic workers should sign documents to spell out the terms of domestic work.

She said a bill establishing fair labor standards and good working conditions for domestic workers would be passed in September. She urged Congress and the State to pass similar bills that would provide standard laws for domestic workers. ***With a report from AP***

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

FOUR DIGIT
Luzon 6 4 7 8 (in exact order)
Vis / Min 3 6 6 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
2 10 17 31 39 41

SUERTRES 5 0 2

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA B.C. Open, First Round at 8:30 a.m. (r), Second Round at 1:30 p.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Wegmans Rochester International, Third Round at 11:30 a.m. on Star Sports
131st British Open Championship, Second Round at 1:30 p.m. (r), Third Round at 9 p.m. on ESPN

WORLD POOL

Bata wins; Django-Nikoy up

CARDIFF, Wales—Three Filipinos—Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco 'Django' Bustamante and Antonio "Nikoy" Lining—made it to the last 16 of the 2002 World Pool Championship, but one of them is certain to fall in the next round at the Cardiff International Arena here.

Reason: Lining and Bustamante are slated to face each other after posting impressive victories over their German opponents on Thursday.

Lining blanked Thomas Engert, 9-0, while Bustamante drubbed Christian Reimering, 9-2, in the last 32.

Lining may yet get free passage, however, as Bustamante's 8-month-old daughter reportedly died yesterday. According to his friends, Bustamante will try to catch the last plane out.

Reyes, on the other hand, beat compatriot Dennis Orcullo, 9-6, to stay on course of regaining the crown he won in 1999.

Blocking Reyes' path is another former champion, German Oliver Ortmann, who downed Puerto Rican Tony Robles, 9-4.

Ortmann said he'd need to play better to beat Reyes. "Although he (Reyes) is well into his 40s he is just the most fantastic player. His positional play is absolutely the best but in 9-ball everyone is beatable."

Another Filipino, Ramil Gallego, suffered a disappointing loss to Japanese veteran Takeshi Okumura.

The 50-year-old Okumura, a 1994 World Champion, lagged behind at 8-3 but managed to take the next six racks to take the tie.

Isabela-born Alex Pagulayan, now donning Canada's colors, also advanced following a 9-7 conquest of American Nick Varner.

Pagulayan will be meeting Swede Marcus Chamat, a 9-6 victor over American Cory Deuel. *Roy Luarca*

Brazil spikers wallop Japanese

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BRAZIL made up for the absence of pretty and flashy Leila Barros with some no-nonsense defense and sharp offense to trounce Japan, 25-18, 25-23, 27-25, yesterday at the start of the 10th World Women's Volleyball Grand Prix at the Araneta Coliseum.

Though missing Barros and fellow stalwart Erika Coimbra who are already retired, the Brazilians were never short of firepower to overcome the Japanese's relentless attacks especially in the third set to take their first win in this leg and fourth overall in the Grand Prix.

Russia brought down Germany in the other match, 25-16, 26-24, 25-15, to also preserve its unbeaten slate with a 4-0 record.

Team captian Evgueniya Artamanova and Ekaterina Gamova combined for 34 of the Russian's total points to lead the world's No. 1 team.

Brazil, which also won the Tokyo leg, is now just two wins short of making the finals of the tourney sponsored by Pagcor, San Mig Light, Agfa Film, Red Bull, PCSO, Philippine Sports Commission and adidas.

Rookie Luciana Nascimento was at the forefront of Brazil's assault, firing one winner after another to quickly warm up to the fans longing for Barros' charm and skill.

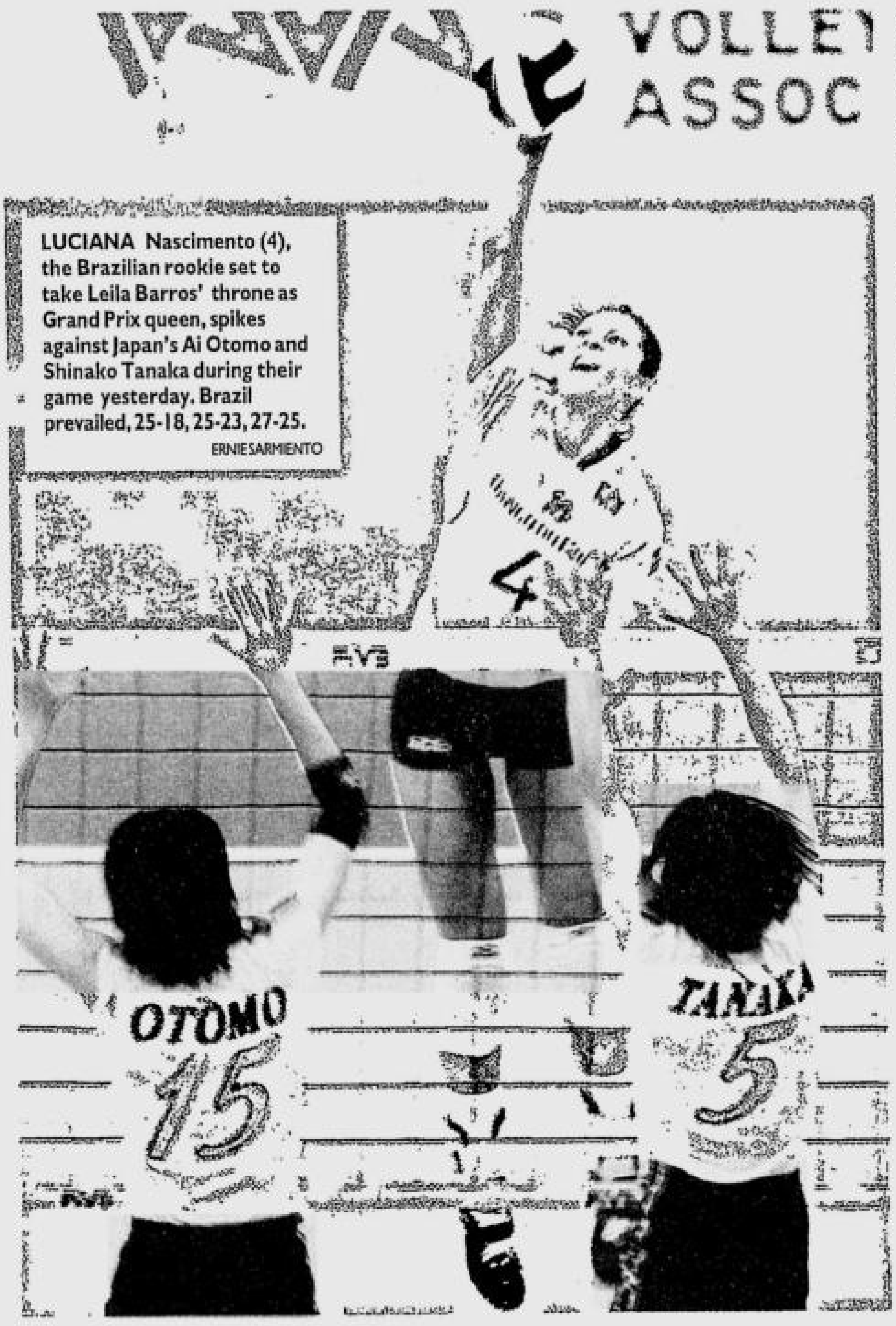
"I'm very flattered that I'm being compared to Leila, but I'm more focused on helping my team win than anything else," said the tall Nascimento, who was also the best scorer in the previous leg, through an interpreter.

Brazil's defense was also remarkable, effectively containing an otherwise determined Japanese charge anchored on fiery striker Shinako Tanaka.

"We had to make adjustments with our formation because of Tanaka. She's very aggressive," said Brazil coach Marco Motta.

That was very evident in the second set when Tanaka started hitting from all angles while teammate Takahasi began unloading her low, pointed serves that yielded at least two aces.

Action resumes today as Brazil takes on Germany at 4 p.m., while Russia squares off with Japan in the first game at 3 p.m.



LUCIANA Nascimento (4), the Brazilian rookie set to take Leila Barros' throne as Grand Prix queen, spikes against Japan's Ai Otomo and Shinako Tanaka during their game yesterday. Brazil prevailed, 25-18, 25-23, 27-25.
ERNIE SARMIENTO

Dance sport tourney on

THE DANCE Sport Council of the Philippines, the only amateur dancesport group recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee, will stage its sixth mid-year ranking and competitions today at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

DSCP president Becky Garcia said Latin professional champions Brendan Cole and Camilla Dallerup will hold a demonstration, conduct a workshop and adjudicate at the competitions together with renowned Marcel De Rijk, World Dance and dance Sport Council presidium member and chair of the WD and DSC social dance committee.

Eagles face Tigers today

By Dennis Eroa

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UP vs FEU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Srs)

THE BEST is yet to come for Ateneo and this spells trouble for University of Santo Tomas in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Ateneo was hardly impressive as it debuted with an 82-77 triumph over National University in the opener last Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum, but this hardly bothered coach Joel Banal.

The Blue Eagles, who are trying to end a 14-year title drought, clash with the Growling Tigers at 4 p.m. today with the winners joining defending champion La Salle Green Archers (2-0) on top of the eight-team field.

University of the Philippines aims to make it a three-way logjam for first when it tackles Far Eastern University at 2 p.m.

The Maroons of coach Allan Gregorio debuted with a 59-54 win over the University of the East Red Warriors.

"I cannot ask for more," said Banal when asked to comment on Ateneo's form. He was clearly satisfied with the Eagles debut.

Power-playing Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez remain Ateneo's main men. Coach Banal, who steered the Blue Eagles to the PBL Chairman's Cup title, used only one rookie—Joy del Rosario—against the Bulldogs.

'NC' suspends erring players

By June Navarro

GAMES MONDAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—Mapua vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—CSB vs Letran (jrs/srs)

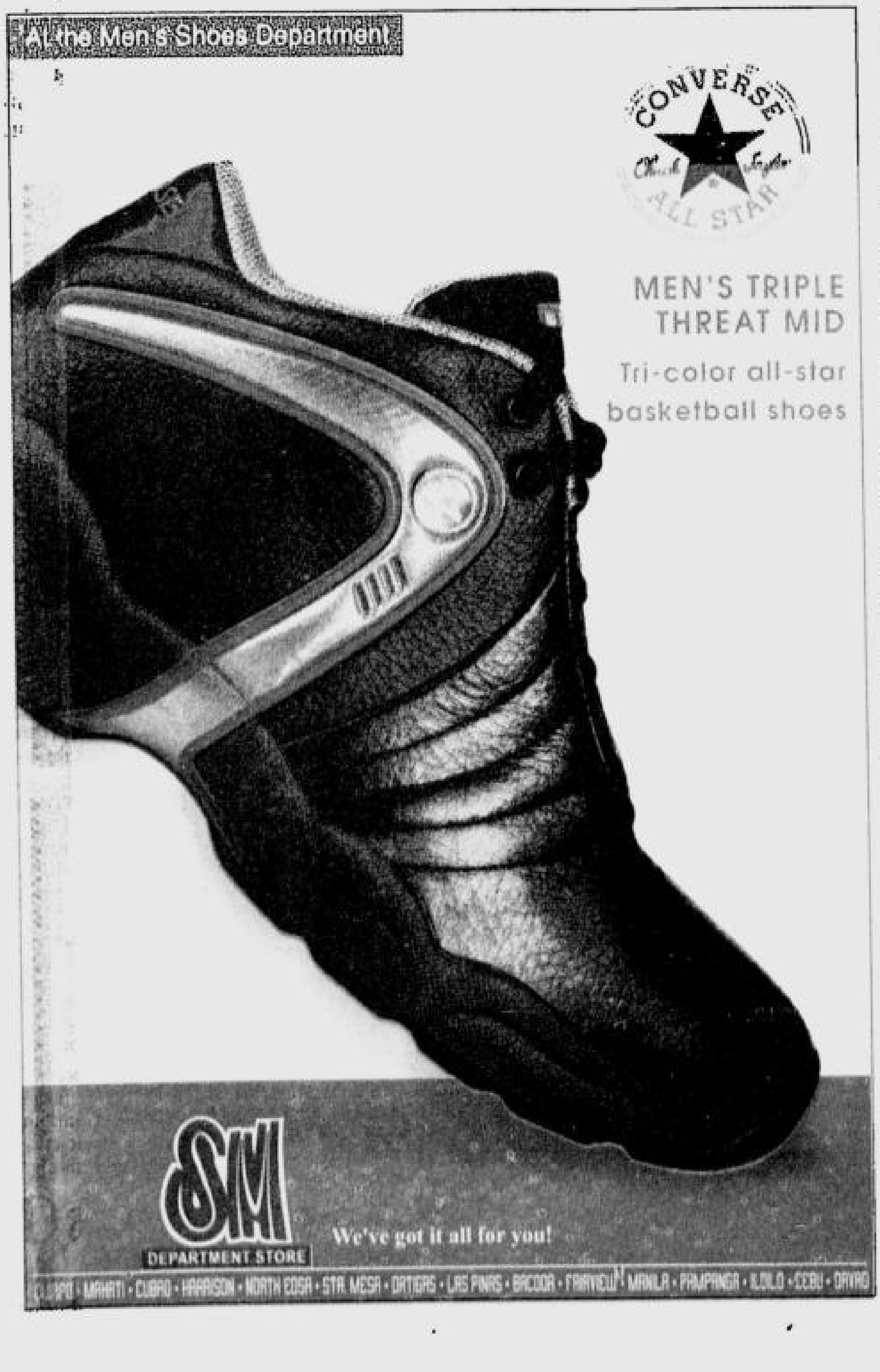
NCAA officials yesterday cracked the whip on the eight players involved in a near brawl during the tumultuous College of St. Benilde-Mapua encounter on Wednesday.

Playmaker Jeffrey Martin, who delivered a closed-fist blow on Benilde rookie Paolo Obeta's head with 49 seconds left in the third quarter, was slapped a three-game suspension that will sideline the sophomore guard for the next two weeks.

Obeta got penalized with a single-game suspension after he threw a vicious elbow on Martin during an inbound play. Both players were ejected from the match that saw the unbeaten Blazers repulse the Cardinals, 64-60.

Benilde's Alex Magpayo and Joferson Gonzales of Mapua were also thrown out of the court after activating themselves into fighting mode.

Meanwhile, defending champion San Sebastian College routed San Beda College, 90-72, even as Philippine Christian University subdued Jose Rizal University, 85-77, during yesterday's matches at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.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Coke books q'finals seat

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA booked a quarterfinals ticket after escaping with a 94-91 victory over Talk N Text last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Tigers displayed enough mental toughness but leaned on sheer luck in the dying moments to install themselves at solo second with a 5-2 win-loss slate.

Errors and a couple of misguided attempts from the three-point area by Danny Johnson were the reasons behind the Phone Pals' third defeat in seven games.

"It was a great escape. It's still a long way to go but at least we're in the quarterfinals now," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes after the Tigers joined the Batang Red Bull Thunder in the next phase.

Bryant Basemore delivered a career-high 34 points while Ron Hale had 24 points as the Tigers survived the excellent plays of Jerald Honeycutt.

Honeycutt exploded with 21 of his 44 points in the second half but it was Johnson who made things sour for the Phone Pals.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 94—Basemore 34, Hale 24, Antonio 11, Avenido 8, Juinio 7, Abuda 5, Morano 3, Abarrientos 2.

TALK N TEXT 91—Honeycutt 44, Johnson 19, Lago 11, Pablo 6, Telan 5, Demape 4, Camaso 2, Fran 0.

Quarters: 28-25, 50-46, 74-70, 94-91

MBA meets Australia

THE MBA selection faces Australia's Great Mates Team at 6 p.m. today in the 25th Jones Cup at the Taipei Physical Education College Gym in Taiwan.

The Filipinos, who hold a 1-win, 2-loss card, are in a must-win situation against the pacesetting Aussies, who are unbeaten after four starts.

Refreshed by a one-day rest, the MBA selection is battling South Korea's Military Team (1-3) at presstime yesterday. *Roy Luarca*

Billiards eternal benefactors

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

APPEARING daily on cable television (ESPN/Star Sports) is the 2002 World 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff, Wales, featuring the best billiards players from 42 nations, including the Philippines. The annual tournament is widely followed and, with the tremendous TV coverage it is getting, the World Pool Championship is now big-league stuff.

In the Philippines, billiards is enjoying a boom, thanks largely to immensely talented Efren "Bata" Reyes, whose exploits is always a source of pride and inspiration to his countrymen and brothers Popit and Putch Puyat, billiards' longtime benefactors who gave new meaning and dimension to the sport previously associated with gamblers and hustlers.

The Puyats are a rare breed. Since the 1980s, they have supported not only Reyes (the 1999 World Pool winner) but also Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Antonio Lining, Rodolfo Luat and Ramil Gallego in their international campaigns. Not only that. As the moving spirit behind Puyat Sports, a nonprofit venture which promotes billiards mainly for the purpose of helping and developing Filipino players, the Puyat brothers have also invited some of the world's most famous and toughest shooters to play here, the most recent being the $40,000 Motolite 9-Ball Challenge won by Bustamante at the Big Dome.

Through the years, the Philippines has hosted several successful international billiards tournaments, attracting into its fold many luminaries of the game such as reigning World Poll champion Mika Immonen of Finland, five-time world champion Earl Strickland, Johnny Archer, current US Open titlist Cory Deuel, and some years back, Nick Varner, of the United States. Also seen in the flesh by Filipino billiards buffs were bald-headed Ralf Souquet of Germany, Japan's world-ranked Kumihiro Takahashi, Ernesto Domingues of Mexico and American legends Mike Lebron, Jeremy Jones and Kim Davenport, to name a few.

'Speed' back on air Sunday

MOTORSPORTS fans and racing enthusiasts will have reason to celebrate when their favorite television show "Speed" goes back on air this Sunday (July 21) on ABC-5 from 11-12 p.m.

The show, co-produced by MP Turbo and ABC 5, is entirely devoted to motorsports and other action-packed sports.

"Finally, we are back on air again," said show host and MP Turbo team driver manager Mike Potenciano

Junior World: Ace caps Ardina's 9-stroke victory

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO–Another Dot, another fairytale story. Dottie Ardina, a sweet-swinging and fierce-fighting Thumbelina, pulled off an unchallenged victory in Class E division of the Callaway Junior World on Thursday (Friday in Manila) with a spectacular ace to top it off.

The last Filipino division winner of the tourney in 1998, the now-professional Dorothy Delasin, was herself called Dot.

Ardina, a third grader at the Child Jesus Academy in Cabuyao, Laguna, shot down her rivals with a closing round of two-over-par 56 en route to a nine-stroke victory–the biggest margin so far since the new 8-and-under division was introduced three years ago at Presidio Hills.

Ardina, whose trip here is sponsored by Philippine Airlines, is the youngest of the 15 Filipino champions in 35 years of the Junior World.

When the back nine could have been just a victory walk for Dottie as she steadily broke away after her wedge shot with a Titleist No. 2 ball rolled onto the hole in No. 6, Ardina didn't let up as she still had a one-over back nine spiked by a 15-foot birdie on the 14th.

Cristina Potenciano placed joint sixth in the same division with a second straight 62 for 188.

"This win is for my mom and dad, they've always wanted me to be the best" said Ardina in Filipino.

Ardina's parents come from humble beginnings like Delasin. The Ardinas used to deliver meat in wet markets in their area and stopped the business only when Dottie's father Ed landed a new job as caretaker doubling up as teaching pro of a small driving range in Laguna.

The elder Ardina trains her daughter with special permission from clubs like Sta. Elena and Canlubang.

Ardina and her flightmates didn't even know that she had aced the sixth. When she got on the green of the slightly elevated hole, Dottie pulled out her putter and looked for her ball. She and her flightmate later found it inside the hole.

"*Kinabahan po ako akala ko nawala na. Buti na lang* hole-in-one *pala*," she said.

Giovana Maymon of the US placed second (60-184) behind Ardina. Sally Kim of Guam (64-185) and Airi Sugimoto of Japan (63-185) shared third place.

Merwin Mediana, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, said Ardina's victory is a big boost to their development program."

"We've tried our best to convince our kids to train hard for big events like the Junior World. Dottie and her father really worked hard the whole year and they got rewarded with a title," he said.

The country's bets in the 15-17 years division suffered the same fate as the rest of the 24-player contingent, failing to make it to the final round play on Friday.

Jayvie Agojo and Matet Salivio got eliminated after their rounds of 82 and 86, respectively. Keena Ugarte improved to a 75 but was way off the cutoff mark at 249. Marlo Lamela had an 80-236, Bayani Garcia 85-258 and Raymond Espiritu 88-260.

Putter fails Woods as 3 share British Open lead

GULLANE, Scotland—Tiger Woods launched his British Open campaign with a sketchy 70 on Thursday before fellow Americans Duffy Waldorf and David Toms and Sweden's Carl Pettersson set the first-round pace at four-under-par 67.

The 24-year-old Pettersson held the outright lead at five under with one hole to play but slipped back into a three-way tie when he pulled his tee shot at the 18th into the left rough and ran up a bogey-five.

World number one Woods struggled with his putter in calm conditions at Muirfield while his playing partners Justin Rose and Shigeki Maruyama fired matching three-under-par 68s to steal the early limelight.

England's Rose and Japan's Maruyama ended the day tied for fourth in a group of 12 that included world number two Phil Mickelson, former champions Nick Price and Sandy Lyle, 1996 U.S. Open winner Steve Jones and Denmark's Thomas Bjorn.

Pettersson, one of the late starters on the day, was not too disappointed to surrender the outright lead at the last.

"There's still a long way to go," said the United States-based Swede, who won his maiden European Tour title at the Algarve Open in April.

The 39-year-old Waldorf, best known for his colorful selection of Hawaiian shirts, was level for the day after eight holes.

But the Californian picked up shots at the ninth, 12th, 14th and last holes to hold the clubhouse lead on his fifth Open appearance.

A HAT-trick of birdies in the first three holes of the second round has propelled South Africa's Ernie Els into contention at the 131st British Open Championship. Els began the day at 1 under par but is now just a shot behind the leaders Des Smyth and Carl Pettersson who are at 5 under par.

Zimbabwe's Nick Price has had a good day with a round of 70 to stay in contention at 4 under while Colin Montgomerie of Scotland played brilliantly to return a 64 and move from 3 over par to 4 under.

Toms, the U.S. PGA champion, collected five birdies and a bogey to draw level with Waldorf late in the day as he chases his first title of the year.

Low scoring was expected in favorable conditions at the par-71 Scottish links course but Woods, chasing a third successive major title of the year, struggled on the slow-paced greens.

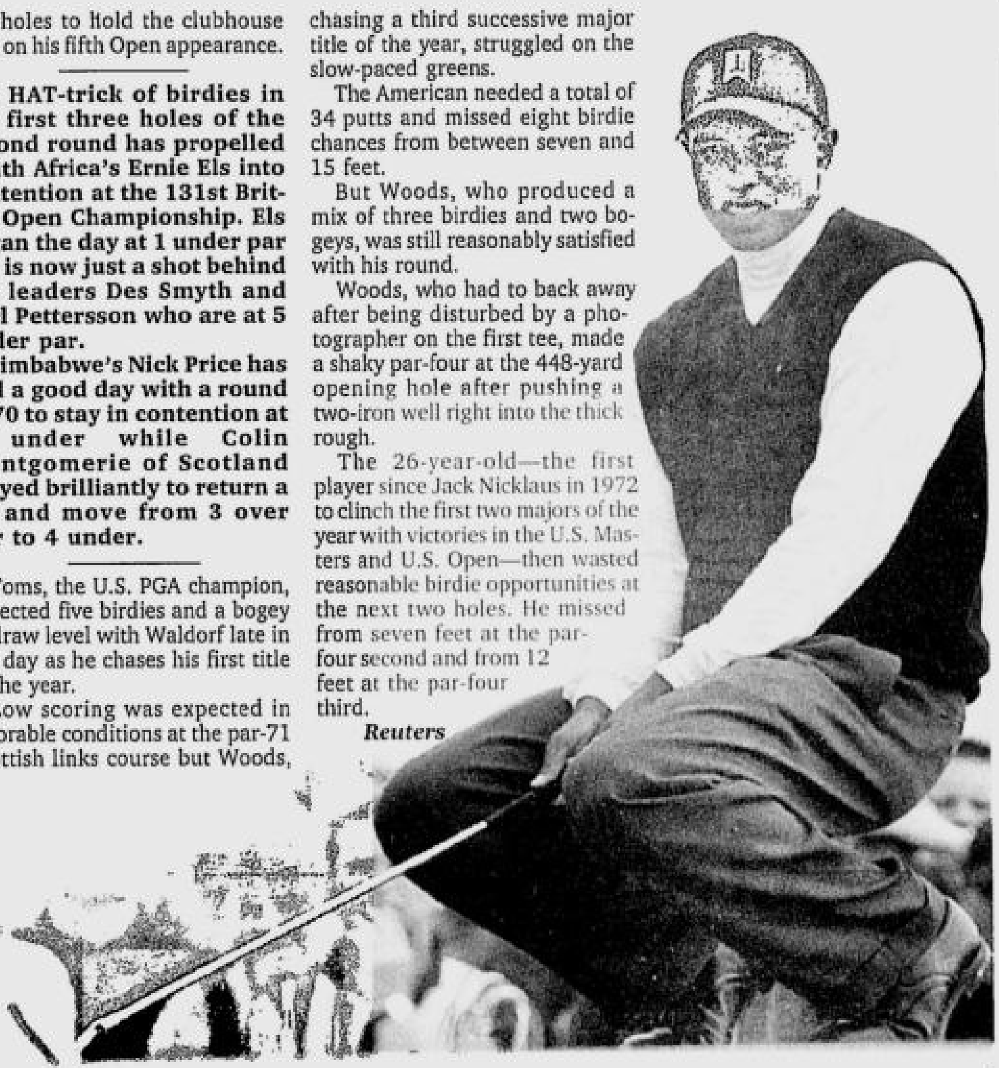
The American needed a total of 34 putts and missed eight birdie chances from between seven and 15 feet.

But Woods, who produced a mix of three birdies and two bogeys, was still reasonably satisfied with his round.

Woods, who had to back away after being disturbed by a photographer on the first tee, made a shaky par-four at the 448-yard opening hole after pushing a two-iron well right into the thick rough.

The 26-year-old—the first player since Jack Nicklaus in 1972 to clinch the first two majors of the year with victories in the U.S. Masters and U.S. Open—then wasted reasonable birdie opportunities at the next two holes. He missed from seven feet at the par-four second and from 12 feet at the par-four third.

Reuters



WOODS sinks to his knees as he tries to coax in a putt on the 4th green.

AP

Woods watch

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

MUIRFIELD, the golf course where Tiger Woods is presently chasing the third leg of golf's Grand Slam, is the world's oldest—dating to 1744. It is located in Gullane, a resort town of about 2,500 on Scotland's east coast.

It is much, much smaller than my hometown but it's big in the world's sports map. Nobody knows about Mangatarem, my birthplace, but golfers of the world know Gullane as Jack Nicklaus' Waterloo. Gullane's Muirfield was where Nicklaus failed to win the third leg of golf's four majors in 1972.

Lee Trevino, the Merry Mex, birdied five of his finishing holes to beat Nicklaus at Muirfield by one to win the 1972 British Open. Nicklaus was then the heavy favorite as he had just pocketed the Grand Slam's first two legs at the U.S. Open and Masters. After his setback at Muirfield, Nicklaus won the PGA, the Slam's fourth major.

Tourism and golf are the town's principal industries.

My dream is to see Gullane's Muirfield some day not only because of its rich history in golf but also because the Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson spent his summers in Gullane. Stevenson, one of my favorites, wrote about Gullane's atmosphere in his short story *The Pavilion on the Links*.

Next to Muirfield as among my dream visits in Scotland is St. Andrews. For while Muirfield is Nicklaus' most "hated" golf course, St. Andrews is the birthplace of golf.

Golf has been played more than 300 years in Gullane. Muirfield is presently hosting the British Open, its 15th The last two in 1987 and 1992 were won by Nick Faldo.

Tiger Woods has the biggest motivation to win at Muirfield. A win will move him close to Nicklaus, whose record 18 majors looked unbeatable until Woods came along. Woods has 8 majors since his breakthrough win in the 1997 Masters.

Before Woods teed off Thursday, he was asked about this rendezvous with golf destiny. In the words of Brian Murphy, "If Woods wins it, would he not, like Alexander the Great, sit down and weep because there was nothing left to conquer?"

"Well," Woods said, "Am gonna go do it again."

Tell me, who among the other 155 players playing at Muirfield can deflect a motivation so frightening as that of Woods'?

"I love what I'm doing," said Woods of his limitless aim of establishing records. "I love getting up and I can't wait to go out there and practice and play and compete. That's what I love to do."

Will Woods win at Muirfield and, in the process, beat Nicklaus' 1972 flop and duplicate Ben Hogan's victories at the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open in 1953?

The world wants Woods to win, I guess.

Everybody loves a winner.

Ist round scores

67—D. Waldorf, D. Toms, C. Pettersson

68—D. Smyth, S. Lyle, S. Maruyama, J. Rose, T. Bjorn, J. Remesy, S. Jones, L. Mattiace, N. Price, P. Mickelson, S. Ames, S. Hansen

69—M. O'Meara, P. Harrington, I. Poulter, I. Garbutt, T. Teshima, C. Pavin, S. Stricker

70—N. Fasth, E. Els, B. Faxon, P. Lawrie, T. Woods, C. Riley, B. Dredge, B. Tway, T. Clark, K. Kuboya, J. Coceres, T. Lehman, L. Janzen, M. Farry, J. Moseley

71—S. Elkington, J. Maggert, S. Cink, T. Taniguchi, D. Wilson, J. Leonard, S. Garcia, G. Norman, S. McCarron, A. Coltart, A. Hansen, R. Goosen, R. Mediate, J. Furyk, D. Love III, B. Mayfair, B. Estes, M. Ilonen, S. Leaney, N. Lancaster, W. Bennett, R. Russell

72—P. Lonard, I. Woosnam, T. Levet, P. O'Malley, P. McGinley, L. Westwood, C. DiMarco, E. Romero, D. Duval, S. Katayama, C. Parry, S. Verplank, R. Karlsson, B. Langer, P. Casey, P. Fulke, R. Green, R. Wessels, G. Evans, J. Durant, J. Parnevik, V. Singh, D. Clarke, C. Perks, M. Persson Atlevi, T. Immelman.

Reuters

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Dindo Canoy stopped Bernabe Aliping in the fifth round to win the Philippine Boxing Federation (PBF) junior welterweight crown in Baguio City. Also today in 1993, Davao City defeated Iligan City, 2-1, to retain the title in the second Milo All-Mindanao Cup football league at the Monteverde Sports Complex.

SPORTSWATCH

Armstrong seizes Tour leadership

LA MONGIE, France—Defending champion Lance Armstrong seized the overall lead in the Tour de France when he outclassed his rivals to win the first mountain stage over 158 kilometers from Pau to La Mongie on Thursday. Helped by a fantastic effort from his U.S. Postal teammates, the three times Tour champion dropped his opponents one by one in the first big climbs of the Pyrenees to prove that he was once again the one and only boss in the bunch. The American surged ahead in the last 200 meters to beat Spaniard Joseba Beloki, who took second place seven seconds behind and looks like Armstrong's only rival for the rest of the Tour. Armstrong's teammate Roberto Heras of Spain, who led his leader towards an impressive 13th stage victory overall in the ski resort of La Mongie, was third. Overall, Armstrong leads Beloki by one minute and 12 seconds with Igor Gonzalez Galdeano, who held the yellow jersey at the start of the stage, third 1:48 behind. *Reuters*

Ramos reaches taekwondo final

REIGNING US Open champion Brix Ramos came up with a big kick to the side of fellow US Open gold medalist Karvin Ong in the third round to win 2-1 and advance to the middleweight final in the junior men's division of the ongoing Samsung Best of the Best national taekwondo championships Thursday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City. The tourney, organized by IMG and Philippine Taekwondo Association, is backed by Samsung, Accel and 103.5 K Lite.

Spring Cooking Oil to carry RP colors

NATIONAL Open and Interclub champion Spring Cooking Oil will carry the Philippine colors in the prestigious Yunnan International Basketball Tournament on Sept. 11-21 in Yunnan, China. Spring will compete against three Chinese teams led by Liaoning Tigers, Hong Kong champion Pacific Long Distance Telephone and Australia's Sydney Kings. Seven-time PBA Best Import Bobby Parks and 6-foot-6 Kurk Salesman will spearhead the Spring cagers, who performed well in the ABC Champions' Cup last April in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Pasay tilt finals today

THE HIGHLY PCC 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby, now officially listed as Pasay City Cockpit's biggest crowd-drawer, enters its championship round at 10 a.m. today.

Sponsoring the event are Casino Filipino-Parañaque, Sagupaan High Action ready mix maintenance feeds, Sagupaan Hammer and Red Bull energy drink.

From a field of 144 entries Thursday, 87 survivors will compete in today's 3-cock finals.

Among the entries with two victories are Arnis Master of new Ucap president Raymond Velayo and Peping Cojuangco, KGR of Gerry Ramos and sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Kaingin of Mayor Jessie Viceo, 7-Stag Sept. 2 and 4 Ray Showdown of Danny Ty and Romero Yu, the entry of Cavite's Jun Topacio, among others.

For inquiries, please contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Nat'l motocross on

DUMAGUETE City plays host to the most prestigious motorbike championship in the country—the Superferry National Motocross Series 2002—which blasts off at the Perdices Coliseum, Capitol Area today and tomorrow (July 20 and 21).

Sports aficionados of the city will be in for a treat when the country's top riders, led by Ernie Leongson and Kenneth San Andres, showcase their wares in this seven-leg series that have already taken Passi City, Iloilo, Mandaue City, Talisay City, Puerto Princesa City by storm.

The motocross series' fifth leg is made possible in cooperation with the province of Negros Oriental through Gov. George Arnaiz and board member Mariant Villegas, chairperson of the Committee on Sports of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

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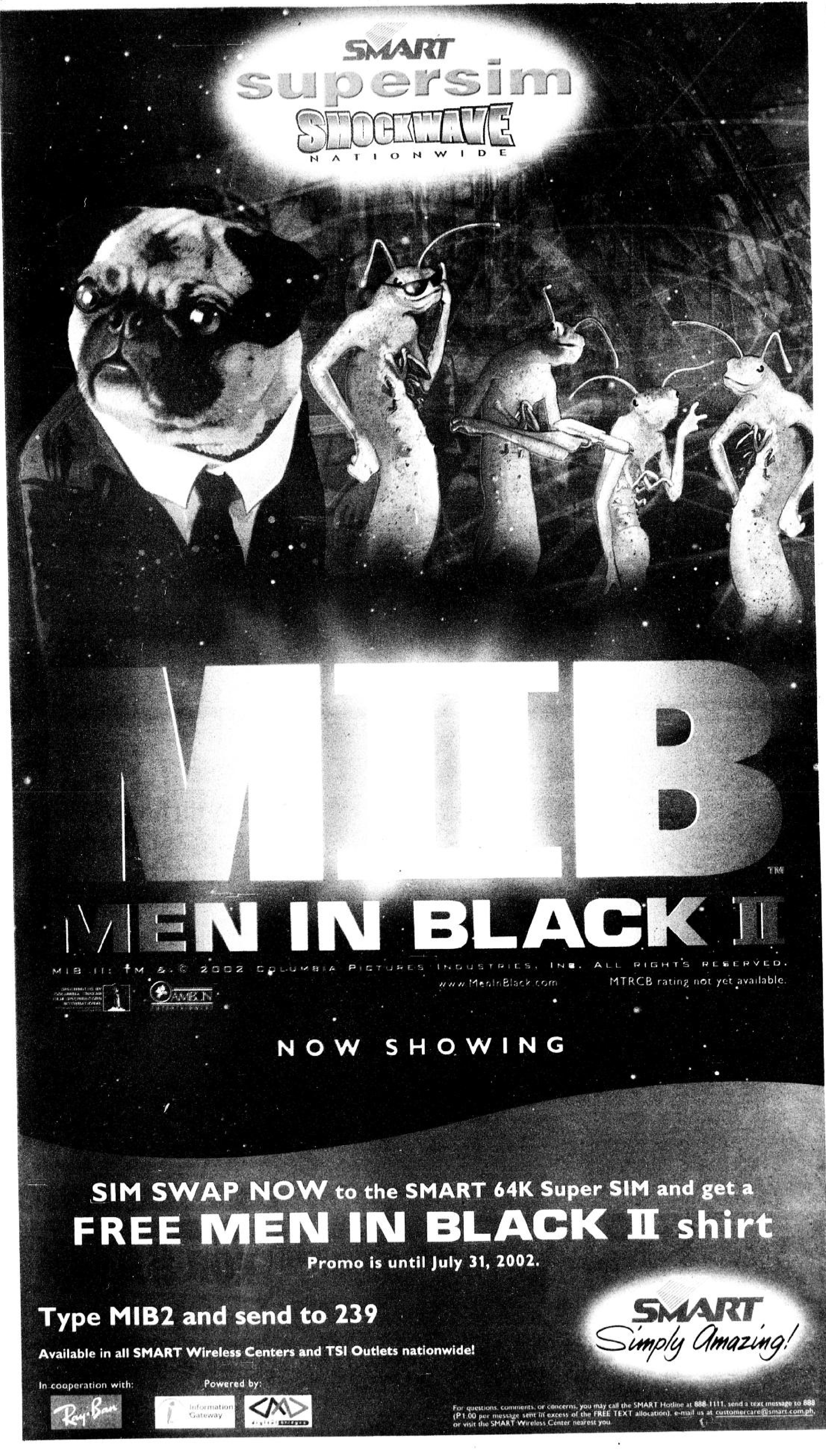
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

₱100M shabu seized in QC

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE seized a total of 50 kilos of shabu with an estimated street value of P100 million in a raid on a suspected shabu laboratory in an upscale neighborhood in Quezon City Thursday night.

Police also arrested 10 suspects—seven Chinese and three Filipinos. Police identified the Chinese as Jimmy Chia, 42, Sally Ong, 44, Tom Chua, 20, Lai Nar Li, 45, Man Chuk Li, 50, Willy Ang, 29, Sam Li Chua, 30, of Fujian

P100M SHABU/ A25

STRUNK

‘Strunk may have used Nida’s money to buy US houses’

By Philip C. Tubeza in Manila and Chandler E. Ramas III in San Francisco

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has doubts that Rod Lauren Strunk, the principal suspect in the gruesome killing of his actress-wife Nida Blanca, cannot come back to the Philippines because he is penniless.

NBI spokesperson Ricardo Diaz said the bureau had asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to look into reports that Strunk has two newly acquired houses in California.

But American authorities yesterday said they have yet to receive a formal request from Manila for assistance in tracking down Strunk.

A senior officer of the US Marshall Service in Sacramento, California, who did not want to be identified, said that even if Manila "already filed the request today, it would take about six to seven months" before an order on paper lands on his desk.

The Sacramento Marshall officer's jurisdiction covers Tracy in northeastern California where Strunk is believed to be residing. But other reports placed Strunk closer to Los Angeles.

Diaz said Strunk could have used his murdered wife's money to buy the houses. Strunk is supposedly unemployed.

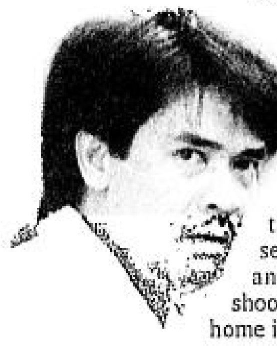
"Mr. Strunk is tagged as the secondary user of Ms. Blanca's credit and cash accounts," Diaz said. "It is highly possible that he diverted substantial amounts of the victim's money abroad

STRUNK MAY/ A25

Sonny Parsons ‘a hero, should be emulated,’ says Sen. Barbers

By Cynthia D. Balana and Nelson F. Flores

A "HEROIC deed" was how Sen. Robert Barbers described Sonny Parsons' face-off with six armed men who broke into his Marikina City home on Thursday, ransacked it for valuables and allegedly tried to rape his two daughters.



PARSONS

Parsons, 44, killed two of the robbers and seriously injured another during a shootout outside his home in SSS Village in Concepcion Dos. Three of the robbers escaped.

Parsons, a former movie actor and former member of the novelty singing group Hagibis, said he had to kill people to serve justice.

"No regrets," he said. "It didn't feel like a movie at all. All I was thinking was the safety

SONNY PARSONS/ A24

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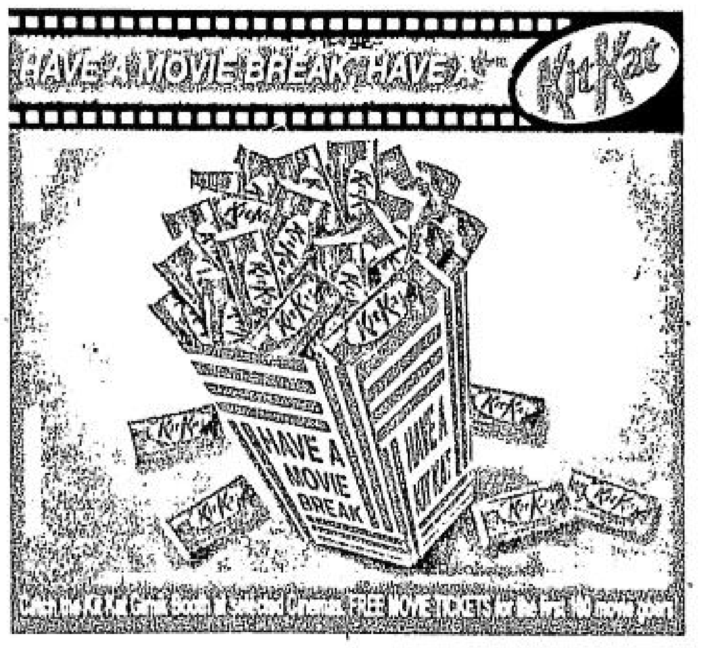

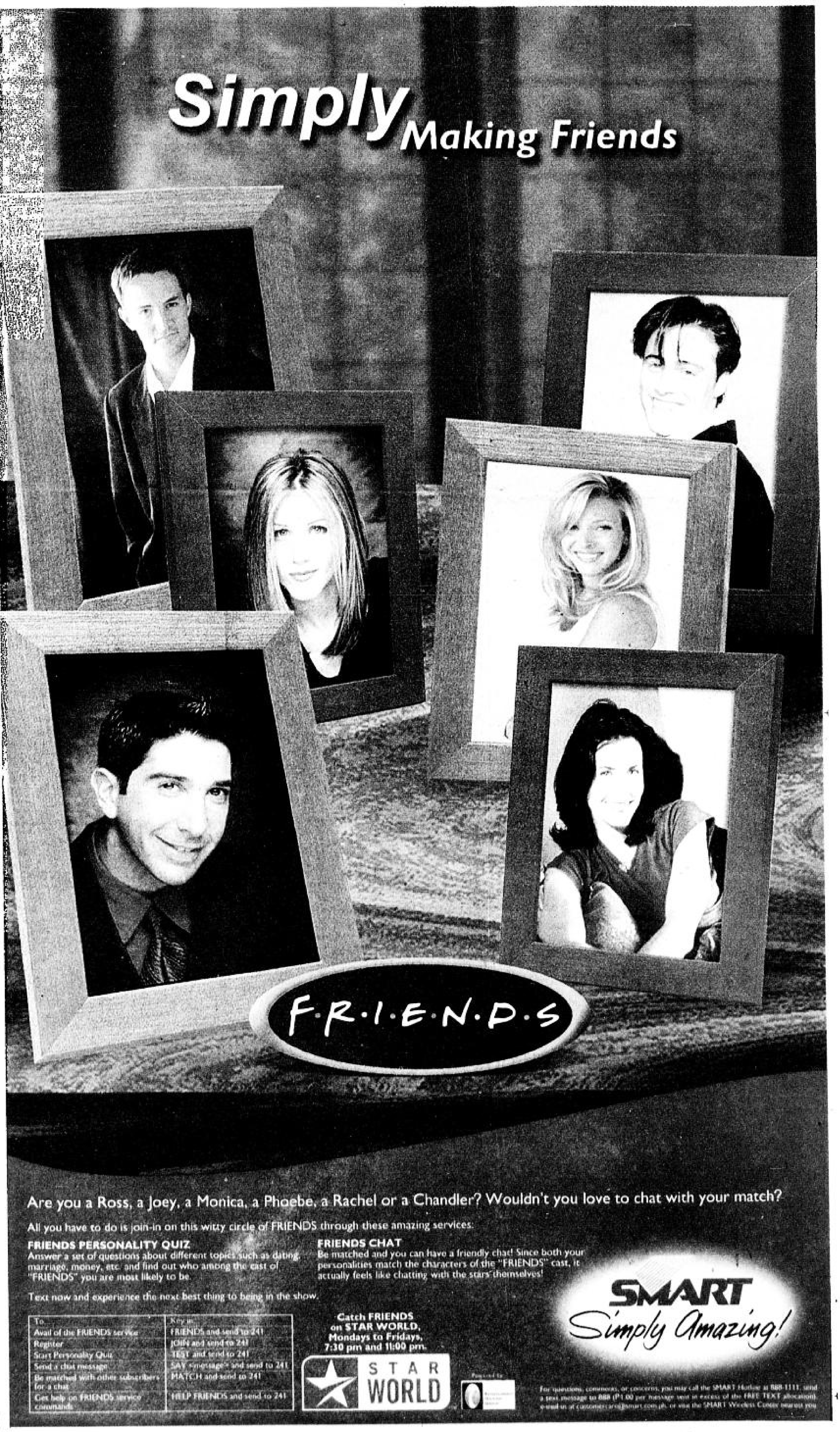

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US envoy was only telling the truth

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHY should we get angry with US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone for telling us that we have a corrupt judiciary, an inefficient police force and a business climate unfavorable to foreign investors?

The guy was only telling the truth. Yes, the truth hurts, but it can also set us free.

***

The US ambassador's statement should be a wake-up call.

Graft and corruption in this country must be so glaring that a diplomat had to speak out against it. Diplomats are supposed to say only very nice things about their host countries.

Instead of getting mad, we should look inwardly. We should even be thankful that an outsider looking in is telling us there's something terribly wrong with our country.

***

It's no different from a guy who has body odor. Nobody among his acquaintances have the guts to tell him, although they talk behind his back. Now a real friend comes along and tells the guy he stinks and for him to use a deodorant or go to the doctor.

That real friend is Ricciardone. And the guy who stinks is us.

***

Ricciardone was right when he said that foreign investors are not given a fair shake in this country.

We invite multinational firms to come to our shores, but when they do they are given a hard time—by corrupt government officials, militant labor, and even our courts.

***

A couple of years ago, a Malaysian firm won in the bidding to buy the Manila Hotel from the government.

But a losing bidder, Manila Bulletin publisher Emilio Yap, went all the way to the Supreme Court to protest his defeat.

The high court ruled that the Manila Hotel should be sold to a Filipino, meaning Yap, because it belongs to the national patrimony.

***

National patrimony, my eye! Since when has a hotel become a national treasure?

If you go to the Manila Hotel, once the home of General Douglas MacArthur, you'll ask yourself, how come this is considered part of the national patrimony when its interior now looks like a Chinese restaurant in Hong Kong?

The high court justices who ruled in Yap's favor are probably regretting their decision.

***

When Ricciardone said, "foreign investors have complained to us about that (*graft and corruption—RT*) to me and to other ambassadors here (such that) we have a real problem here," he was probably referring to a public bidding won by an American firm which has been cancelled.

The US firm, Airport Systems International Inc. (ASII), probably incurred the ire of Air Transportation Office (ATO) officials because it did not bribe them after winning the bid. The bid was for the awarding of the contract to put up instrument landing systems at the Davao City airport to make it at par with other international airports.

One of the losing bidders, a company based in Europe, is reportedly being eyed by the ATO to win in the re-bidding. There's talk that the firm would part with a big chunk of money if the contract was awarded to it.

***

No less than the US Embassy's deputy chief of mission, Robert W. Fitts, wrote the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), mother agency of ATO, taking up the cudgels for ASII.

But Fitts' appeal fell on deaf ears. The ATO still wants to hold the re-bidding and re-write rules to favor the Europe-based company.

Talagang walanghiya ang mga opisyal ng ATO!

***

Former actor and singer Sonny Parson is the man of the hour. He's every man's hero, every man who doesn't want his home violated by outsiders.

Parsons killed two of six robbers who barged into his house in Marikina, hogtied him and other members of his family, and tried to rape two of his daughters, before escaping.

But Parsons, who has a gun, a .45 caliber Para-Ordnance pistol, was able to untie himself with the help of his housemaid, and give chase.

***

What took place could only have happened in the movies. Parson caught up with the six robbers while they were about to board their getaway car.

He gave two of them double taps—two successive shots—each to the chest, followed by shots to their heads.

Running out of ammunition, he slashed the third robber's throat with the robber's own knife. Parsons wrested the knife away from the robber with an aikido technique.

Mabuhay ka, pare ko! Sayang at hindi mo napatay silang lahat.

'Isumbong' anniversary show on 9

THE AWARD-WINNING public affairs program "Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo" (IMKT) celebrates its anniversary featuring Mon Tulfo's equally hard-hitting brother-journalists Erwin and Raffy.

Today at 5 p.m. on RPN, instead of the usual weekly format, IMKT will present the different facets of Tulfo's personality. It will also feature ordinary people who have performed extraordinary acts of heroism, in the segment "Bayan Ng Mga Bayani".

To honor these men and women, they will be awarded certificates of appreciation.

IMKT's anniversary episode will also explain why Mon Tulfo has chosen to be the "*sumbungan ng mga tao.*"

Sonny Parsons 'a hero, should be emulated,' says Barbers

From page A23

of my family. I won't hesitate (to kill) again if placed in a similar situation in the future."

Barbers commended Parsons for his bravery and presence of mind in going after the suspects.

He said that Parsons, also a former Marikina councilor, was a perfect example of a responsible and righteous family man who is willing to risk his life by facing criminals.

Barbers, former secretary of interior and local government, said people should emulate what Parsons did to protect his home and his family, and help the government curb criminality.

The robbers hogtied Parsons-Jose Nabiula in real life- his wife and two daughters. One of the robbers pointed a .357 pistol to his head and pulled the trigger, but the gun did not fire, Parsons said. He said he talked the robbers out of raping his daughters and convinced them to leave his house, telling them that members of the Marikina police were on their way to his house for breakfast.

When the robbers left, Parsons freed himself with the help of his housemaid, and, armed with his .45 pistol, ran after the robbers and engaged them in a gun battle.

"What Mr. Parsons did is very admirable because he stood up for his family despite the certain knowledge that the suspects were carrying firearms," Barbers said.

He said he would file a Senate resolution to commend Parsons for his "heroic deed in not allowing criminal elements to prevail."

Barbers said that Parsons had proven what community involvement could do in the campaign against all forms of criminality.

During his stint at the DILG, Barbers said he had instituted the "Barangay at Pulisya Laban sa Krimen Program" aimed at enlisting the cooperation and active participation of civilians in the fight against criminality.

"We must learn from Parsons' case that we can prevent nefarious elements from getting away with their unlawful activities," he said. "If the public will be more vigilant and cooperative in combating enemies of the law, the peace and order situation in the country will vastly improve."

Police have yet to identify the robbers that Parsons killed.

The wounded suspect was identified as Joram Gacete, 24, a resident of Batasan Hills in Quezon City. He is now under treatment at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center.

Policemen said they found in Gacete's pocket a .28 revolver.

Supt. Cipriano Querol, Marikina police chief, said they would continue investigating the incident and establish the identity of the dead suspects.

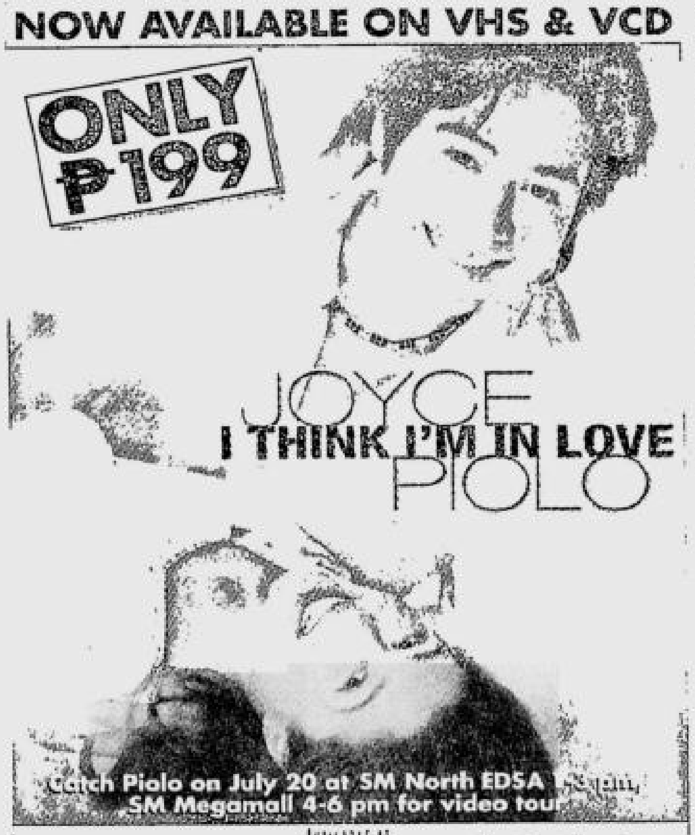
He said the armed group that broke into Parsons' house has been preying on subdivisions in Marikina City since June 2.

On July 16, the same group burglarized the house of Romeo Reyes in Fairlane Subdivision, Concepcion Uno, Marikina.

Dante Jimenez, chair of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, said burglaries are very rampant not only in Marikina but all over the country. He said that what Parsons did was an act of self-defense if the reports about the incident were true and accurate.

Jimenez also noted that despite the propaganda about Marikina being a model city, the city is crime-prone and drug-infested.

No amount of "pogi" points will be able to cover up the crime problem, especially drug trafficking, Jimenez said.



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American stock broker attacked by neighbor

By Leila B. Salaverria

AMERICAN stockbroker and former INQUIRER business columnist John L. Mangun was hacked in the head with a chopping knife by a neighbor who was trying to pick a fight with him but whom he ignored, according to police.

Investigators said Mangun, 51, left his home on Mascardo Street in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Makati City on Thursday afternoon and was on his way to work when Erwin A. Sison, 35, jobless, and also a resident of Mascardo Street, blocked his path and tried to start an argument by asking the American what his problem was.

Mangun tried to ignore Sison and continued walking towards his car but Sison pushed him. Mangun continued to ignore him.

Sison went inside his house and came out carrying a 13-inch chopping knife, and then attacked Mangun from behind, investigators said. The American, hit twice in the head, fell to the ground.

Mangun's wife Adeline brought him to the Ospital ng Makati. Sison fled, leaving the bloodied knife behind, police said.

Mangun told police that Sison is a known drug user in the neighborhood and often provoked people whenever he was on drugs. Sison might have been on drugs when he attacked, Mangun said.

The stockbroker also said it was the second time Sison tried to provoke him into a fight. The first time happened two years ago, he said.

Sison is now in the custody of the Makati police.

Hacked dead

A TIRE shop worker on Thursday night hacked to death a co-worker who had been nagging him about his work in Malabon City, police said.

Rosendo Bahala, a vulcanizer at Lopez Vulcanizing Shop and resident of Pinagsabugan, Longos, Malabon, was almost beheaded and also sustained hack wounds in the abdomen and arms. He died on the way to the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon, police said.

Patrolling policemen caught suspect Otoy Paharuja, also of Pinagsabugan, while fleeing toward C-4 Road in Letre, also in Longos. The policemen said Paharuja was still holding the jungle bolo he used in attacking Bahala.

PO2 Redentor Mantala and PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin said the attack happened at about 8:30 p.m. at the Lopez Vulcanizing Shop on Rizal Avenue Extension in San Agustin, Malabon.

Bahala was drinking with his other co-workers in front of the shop when Paharuja arrived already reeking of liquor, investigators said.

An argument ensued between Bahala and Paharuja when the former started to mock the latter about his work as a vulcanizer. Paharuja left the group but returned moments later armed with a jungle bolo and repeatedly hacked Bahala.

Witnesses claimed that aside from being a slow worker, Bahala had been complaining that Paharuja was always getting the daytime work schedule while he was always given the graveyard shift.

Paharuja was charged with murder, police said.

Tina Santos

97 families 'not ejected'

THE MARIKINA City government "transferred" and not ejected the 97 families who had sought shelter at an elementary school during the recent monsoon rains, to make way for polling precincts for the July 15 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando explained this yesterday in a letter faxed to the INQUIRER.

Fernando was referring to the INQUIRER July 16 report, "Metro polls, confused, bungled." The report said the families were "ejected" from the Malanday Elementary School so that polling precincts could be put up for the elections.

Fernando said in her letter that the city government "did not eject" the 97 families or order their transfer from the school to the Malanday Covered Court.

"After the overflowing of Marikina River had subsided, the city government allowed the evacuees to return to their homes," she said. "However, while in the process of returning to their respective homes, news spread about the arrival of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Marikina City to visit the evacuees. Hoping to receive relief goods brought by the President, majority of the evacuees proceeded to the Malanday Covered Court and waited for the arrival of the President (who) later distributed relief goods."

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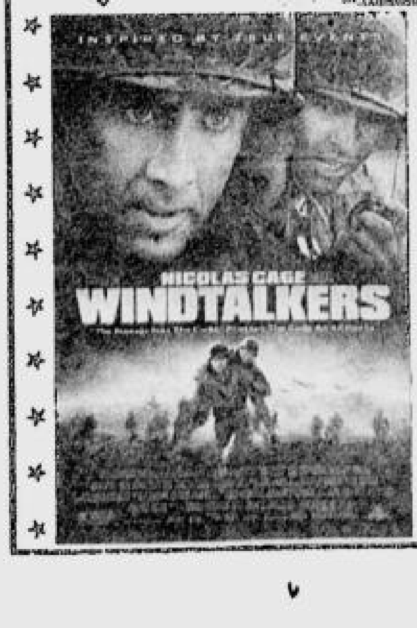

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THE FUGITIVE
Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo presents to media Japanese fugitive Takebe Mamoru, 58, who was arrested in his hideout in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Mamoru, who is wanted for allegedly robbing a pachinko parlor in Tokyo nearly five years ago, will be deported to Japan this weekend, Domingo said. ERIK ARAZAS

Dads want police control role

By Jerome Aning

COUNCILORS should have a voice in controlling and supervising police functions that Malacañang is planning to devolve to the Metro Manila mayors.

Manila Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing yesterday said city and municipal legislators could check fears that the police force could be converted into a private army.

In a privilege speech before the city council last Thursday, Bagatsing said the mayor must first obtain the concurrence of the councilors in enlisting and promoting all police officials assigned to Manila.

"In this way, a strict screening process is achieved and the city is assured that the police officers roaming the streets have the approval of the people," he said.

The council, with the mayor's concurrence, should also have the power to relieve a policeman of his duties if he is inefficient, he said.

Bagatsing said the councilors must also have a say in the crafting of general policies governing police operations.

He also wants the salaries of all city policemen increased to minimize corruption and to compensate for the risks which policemen go through daily as law enforcers.

He said policemen who are not Manila residents should be removed from the police force.

"Familiarity with the community and a sense of duty for the city where he lives is inherent in every policeman who grew up in this city," he explained.

The fourth district councilor said the Service Induction and Reorientation program launched by Mayor Lito Atienza last year should become mandatory and should be expanded to cover all current and would-be members of the Western Police District. "If you don't know or you are not familiar with Manila's streets, you have no right to patrol them," he said.

He said mayors can now say they are really in charge of maintaining the peace and keeping the order.

"Now that administrative control (will be) vested in the mayor, we (will soon be able to) truly say that the police force (is) the protector of the people," he said.

Rob suspect killed in shootout with policemen

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN UNIDENTIFIED suspected robber was killed after he and two accomplices shot it out with policemen while trying to escape after robbing a gas station in Sta. Mesa, Manila before dawn yesterday.

The two other suspects escaped while two Criminal Investigation and Detection Group policemen were injured in the gunbattle, investigators said.

The dead suspect was 20 to 25 years old, of regular build, and was wearing a dirty white shirt, denim pants, and black and white rubber shoes, according to Detective Norberto Obrero of the Western Police District homicide section.

The robbers had taken P10,000 from the Caltex gas station at the corner of P. Sanchez and Pat. Antonio Street in Sta. Mesa when they encountered the policemen.

During the firefight, P02s Manolito Abella, and Roderick Bagono of the CIDG were injured, Detective Obrero said.

He said the suspects, armed with handguns, struck at the gas station at 3:35 a.m. yesterday. They took the shotgun of security guard Darwin Balasa, 27, of the great Wall Security Agency.

"The culprits then pushed cashier Annalyn Ferella, 22, against the wall and took the station's earnings of P10,000," Obrero said.

When the three robbers left the gas station, they saw an R & E taxi driven by Joel S. Matidius, 46, parked nearby. They boarded the taxi and, at gunpoint, ordered Matidius to drive towards V. Mapa. They also took the driver's P2,300, the detective said.

When the frightened taxi driver saw a Shell gas station at the corner of V. Mapa and 2nd Street, he insisted that he was low on gas. "But the suspects would not let him stop, so he jumped out of the taxi," Obrero said.

The three robbers also got off the taxi and ran after Matidius, firing their guns at him. Officers Abella, Bagono and P02 Joseph de la Cruz, who were at a nearby police community precinct, heard the gunfire.

"They thought the suspects were firing at them and so they fired at the men," Obrero said.

Taxi driver Matidius was not hit since he had run in to a sidestreet, the detective said. But the suspects hit Abella in the buttocks while Bagono was hit in the right shoulder and hip.

When the other policemen in the community precinct heard the gunshots, they also ran out and opened fire at the suspects. The suspect who had taken the security guard's shotgun was hit in the head and the body, the detective said.

The two other suspects disappeared in the darkness, he added.

Detective Obrero said the policemen insisted that one of the suspects was wounded.

P100M shabu . . .

From page A23

and Amoy, China.

The three Filipinos were Concepcion Andohon, 26, Jessielyn Lamosa, 26, Jamil Maramanay 19, a native of Cagayan De Oro and a resident of Manggahan, Fairview, Quezon City.

Right after the arrests, President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the alleged shabu laboratory at Varsity Village in Loyola Heights, Quezon City and inspected the seized evidence.

"Under my administration, the political will is already seen in the fight against drugs," the President said. "We have the biggest number of drug busts under this administration."

Judge Enrico Lansanan of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 7 issued the search warrant to members of the Metro Manila Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) of the National Capital Region Police Office.

At about 11:30 p.m., the lawmen raided the house on Salvador Street at Varsity Village, which the suspects were said to be renting from a Dr. Singson.

Police said the raiders also found 200 kilos of various chemicals as well as laboratory equipment, which the suspects used to make narcotics.

Police also seized a Toyota Altis (XCY-113) and a Mitsubishi L-300 delivery van (XCW-593).

Two of the suspects were caught in a nearby house on Gonzales Street in Phase 1 of the same village.

The suspects are now detained in Camp Crame for further questioning and investigation.

According to Senior Insp. Michael Secillano of the MMDEG, his unit had been closely monitoring the activities of the suspects.

He said that as soon as his team had gathered enough evidence, they secured the warrant and conducted the raid. *With AFP*

NBI raids fakers

TO stop the sale and distribution of fake JanSport items, Uniglobe Travelware Co. Inc., authorized distributors of JanSport bags and accessories, together with agents of the Intellectual Property Rights Division of the National Bureau of Investigation, recently raided a factory and a store found manufacturing and selling fake JanSport items.

Raided were Robelle's Bags and Accessories, a factory in Tondo, Manila, and Bags Are Us Corp., a wholesaler at Tutuban Center. Seized were faked JanSport backpacks amounting to more than P500,000.

JanSport marketing and sales director Marisol Marcelo advises the public to buy JanSport items only at authorized shops.

'Strunk may have used Nida's money to buy US houses'

From page A23

for his own use."

Commitment

The NBI had said Strunk was "entirely dependent" on Blanca for his financial needs. But Diaz said that the NBI could facilitate Strunk's return to the country if the suspect decides to come back and face the charges against him.

"He should officially inform us about what he needs," said Diaz, who is also the NBI-Interpol chief. "I could forward it (to my superiors).

"If he is really willing to face the charges, this is the right time to come back. It would dispel any idea that he went to the US precisely to evade justice in the Philippines."

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco also dared Strunk's lawyers to deliver on their earlier promise that the suspect would come back "once he is needed" in the investigation of his wife's murder.

"That's a commitment they made to us," Wycoco said. "That's their problem."

US legal attaché and local FBI representative James D. Nixon had lunch with Wycoco and Diaz yesterday. Diaz said they talked about Strunk's possible extradition, among other things.

"He said Strunk's being an American has no bearing whatsoever on his possible extradition," Diaz said.

He said the Philippines will formally ask the US to extradite Strunk back to the country once a local court issues an arrest warrant against him.

Long process

But the officer in the US Marshall Service in Sacramento said that extradition "is a long, drawn-out process" that would not bring instant results even in two weeks. He said the process should start with the Philippine government asking the US State Department to "discreetly locate" a fugitive in the US.

The US Marshall Service headquarters in Virginia will then be alerted and an order will be relayed to the Marshall Service office concerned, which, in Strunk's case, is the Marshall Service in Sacramento.

An arrest warrant will then have to be secured from a local US judge before an arrest can actually be effected, the officer said.

He said that "unless the Philippine government puts emphasis on the case," the procedure can last for half a year.

"This is only a rough case and anything can still happen (especially) if this (were) a hot case," the officer added.

The Marshall officer said that in his experience, tracking down fugitives from the Philippines or from any other country "takes a considerable amount of time."

Updates

Diaz said Nixon gave the NBI updates on Strunk's whereabouts in the US, but he did not divulge the updates.

Wycoco and Diaz defended the NBI's case against Strunk, Philip Medel Jr., and six others before the Department of Justice against criticisms from Strunk's defense lawyers.

"I think the best thing Rod Strunk's lawyers should do is file their counter-affidavits before the DOJ (rather) than tell the media," Diaz said.

"Any defense lawyer worth his salt would speak like that," Wycoco said of the action of Strunk's lawyers. "We expected it."

He said the NBI is currently getting statements from additional witnesses who came forward after the bureau filed its case on Wednesday.

An NBI source said one possible witness might be able to provide the details of Blanca's whereabouts after she left the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board office at the Atlanta Centre building in San Juan the day before she was found dead.

"Between now and the preliminary investigation, we might submit new evidence or name one of those John Does," Wycoco said.

Diaz said they are placing "all emphasis needed in this case" because of the national attention it has been drawing.

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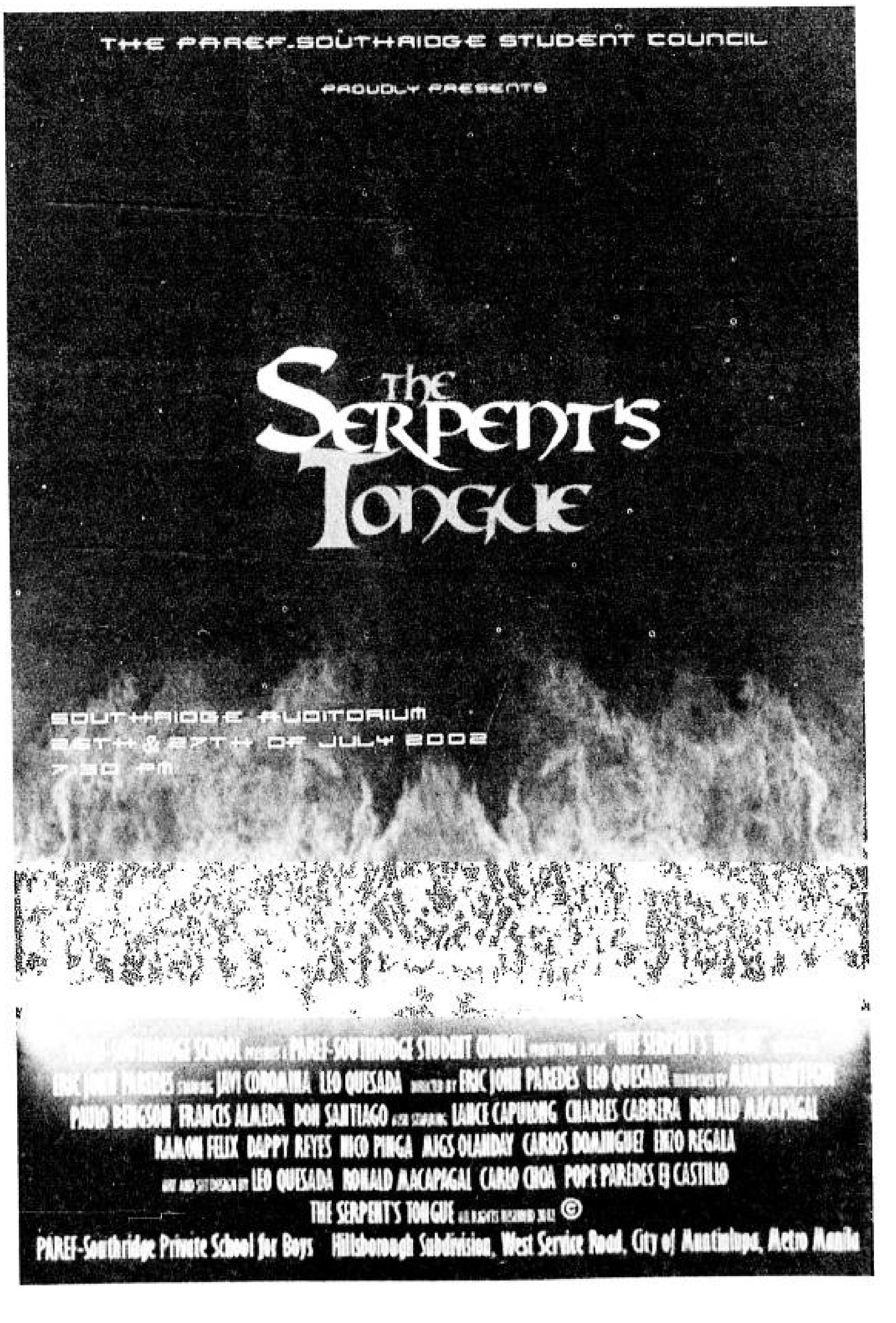
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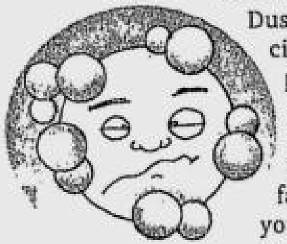
Sharp Plasmacluster air con rids 90% of germs

We take refuge in the comforts of our homes. It's like our blanket from worries that is the outside world. We assume that the four walls of our house, with all the screens and curtains, can protect us from the growing concern on air pollution.

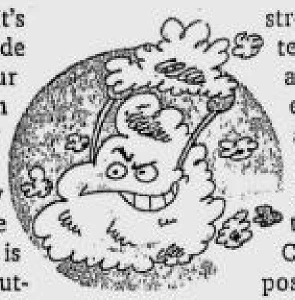
We ask now, "How safe is our home really from air pollution?" Recent studies by the Congressional Quarterly show that indoor air is often two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. What's even more alarming is that indoor air is claimed to be 1,000 times dirtier! And we don't realize it but people spend 90 percent of their time indoors. That's some cause for concern.



Air pollution is no longer restricted to smog, vehicle emissions, and factory smoke. Dust mites, molds, pet odors, and cigarette smoke also comprise pollution and are common causes of allergies. Constant exposure to these harmful elements may put you and your family's health in peril. And will you allow that?

Frequent aircon users can now be assured that the air which circulates in their room is not only purified, but freshens and cleans. With Sharp's Plasmacluster Split-Type Air Con your home or office is now safe in the truest sense of the word. A first in the market, Sharp's Plasmacluster Split-Type Air Con does not just filter the air; it actually "destroys" harmful substances like mold, bacteria, odors and viruses often present in the most unlikely places. Because Sharp knows that health is a primary concern to the family, the company developed appliances equipped with Plasmacluster technology.

So how does this new technological breakthrough work?



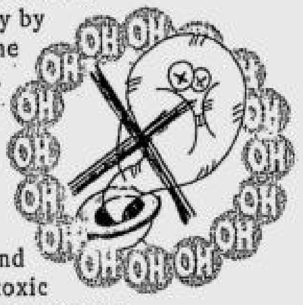
Sharp makes use of cluster ions to destroy airborne fungus. Cluster ions consist of positive and negative ions, which exist naturally in the air and are totally harmless to human beings. An ion is an atom or group of atoms that has an electric charge. Cluster ions control the positive and negative ions, which clean the air because they are well balanced.

Sharp's Plasmacluster Split-Type Air Con has powerful, chemically active particles which are formed by the collision of these positive and negative ions.

When you turn on the air con the cluster ions restrain the mold and other bacteria floating in the air, eventually eliminating them. The cluster ions then detoxify the air and it can even reach stagnant air trapped in unreachable areas of the house. The destruction of these unwanted air substances happens when the cluster ions surround the mold, bacteria, and cigarette smoke or toilet odor.

Freshening the air

Once the indoor air is rid of these unwanted odors, the Plasmacluster then refreshes the air. With the cluster ion initiating system, two sensors—optical allergy and odor or gas sensor—detect toxic substances floating in the air. The system then purifies air effectively by automatically controlling the amount of discharged cluster ions. The negative ions then increase in number making them the ones responsible for freshening the indoor air.



Clean device

Plasmacluster's work does not end there. It prevents the spread of toxic substances or fungus in the room by further distributing the helpful positive and negative ions within the device itself.

Don't mistake the Sharp Plasmacluster Air Con with ordinary air filters or air ventilation. Air filters or air ventilation systems eliminate dirty air, but does not remove mold and bacteria to really clean it.

Sharp has long adopted Plasmaclusters in other appliances, and these products are now the choice of health-conscious consumers. The company is committed to giving the household with appliances that care.

Thanks to the new **Sharp Plasma Cluster Aircon**

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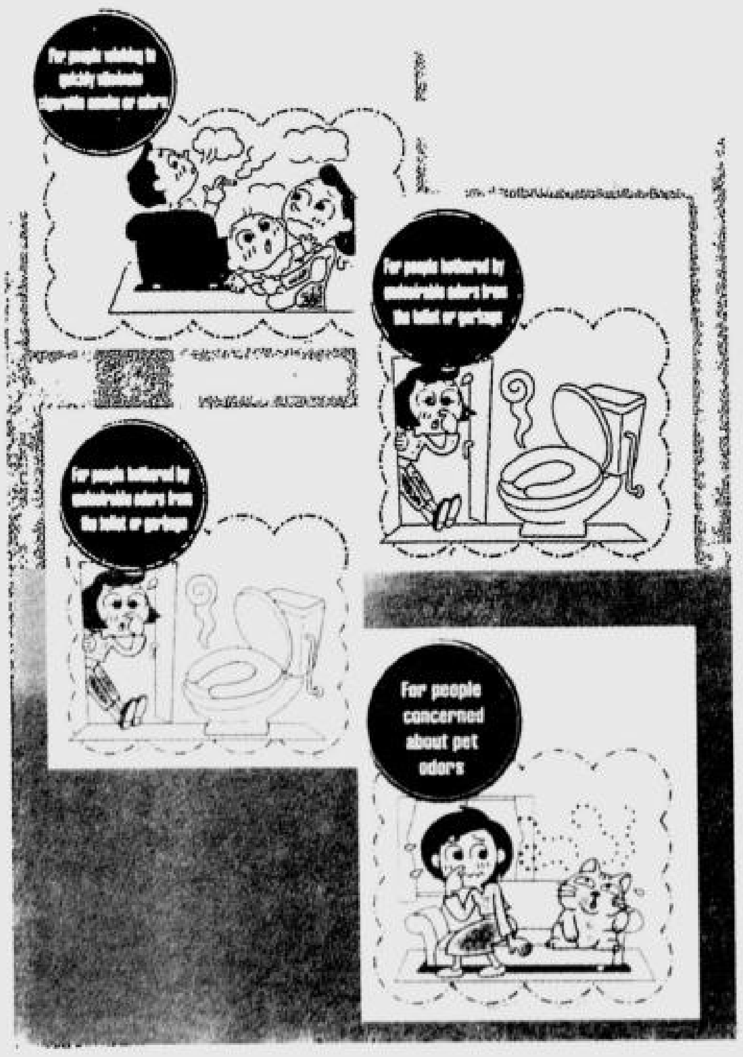
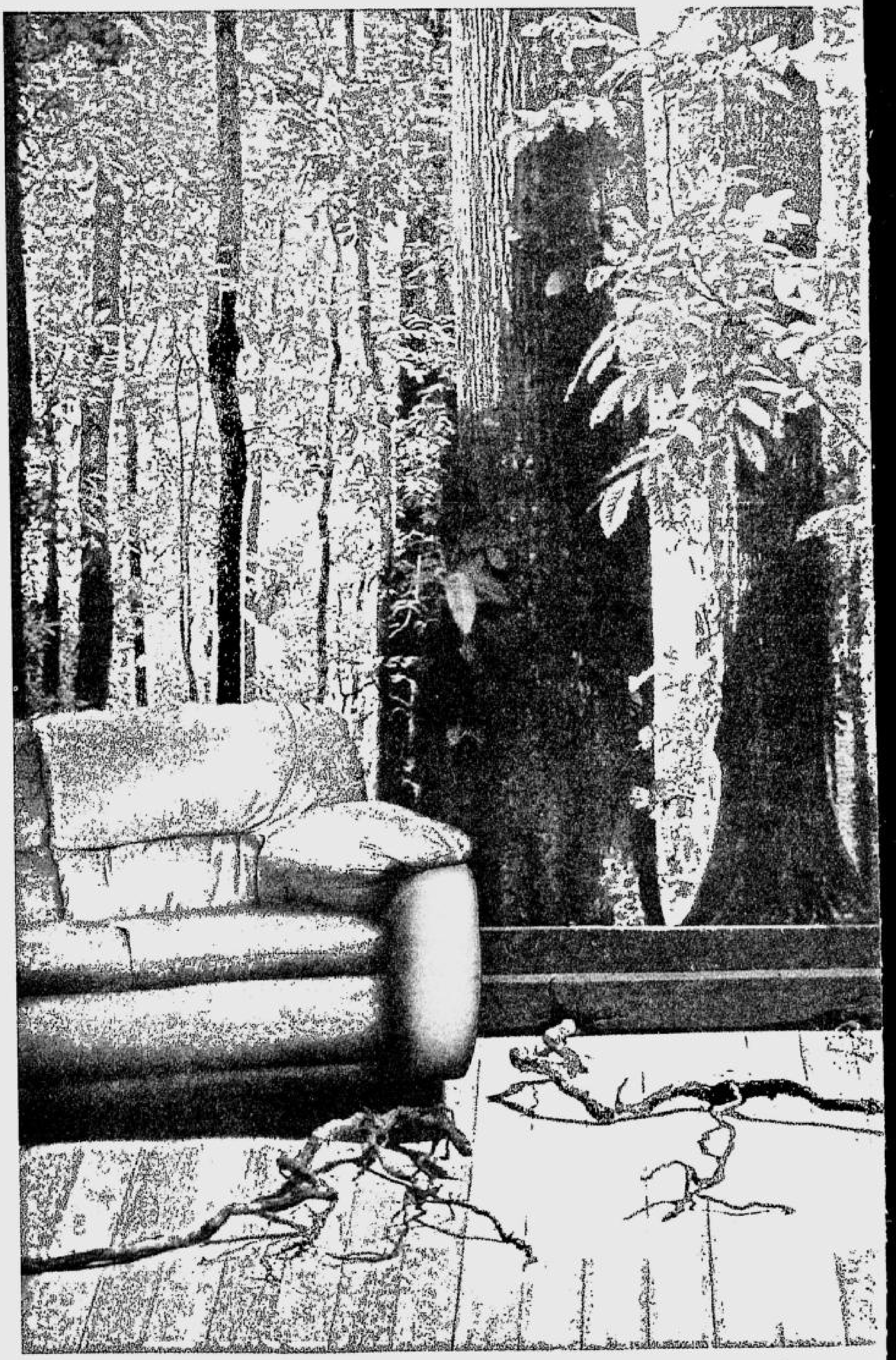

For people concerned about pet odors



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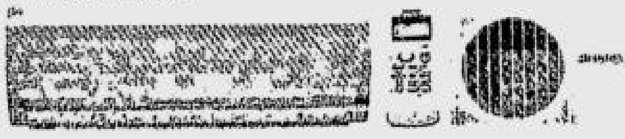

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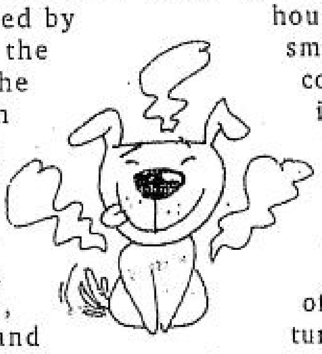
The truth about indoor air

FACTORIES, vehicles, and garbage are all blamed for being the source of the fast deterioration of the earth's atmosphere. Other technology-based equipment have also been criticized. But maybe we're barking at the wrong tree.

In a study done by the Congressional Quarterly, it is claimed that indoor air is often two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. Why so? Indoor air does not circulate as freely as outside air. The dirt and toxic substances are inhaled and exhaled by the same people in the room. Ironically, the air is not given enough "breathing space" to circulate. In the study it was found out that this air is the common cause of headaches, fatigue, drowsiness, and other sicknesses.



The invisible particles in the air like dust mites, mold spores, and pollen often cause allergies in many people. Some allergic reactions may lead to more severe illnesses like asthma. If a person has a runny nose, we usually attribute it to the changing weather. However it may be due to these particles. Watery eyes, headaches, inactivity, or even snoring can be symptoms of allergy.

The family should also be aware that chemicals commonly used at home could trigger allergic reactions.

Indoor air quality actually depends on humidity, age of the house, or cigarette smoke. In a tropical country like the Philippines, it is more likely that these contaminants are circulating around our homes.

Even the old paint of your house, furniture, gas stoves, wall coverings, draperies, tobacco smoke and carpets pose great risks to your health.

Staying indoors doesn't guarantee good health

Ion
Plasmacluster

A mother's major concern is the health of her kids. She will take every precaution to prevent her babies from contracting diseases. Mother's instincts tell her that spending more time outdoors raises the risk of her kids getting sick. But this is not so anymore.

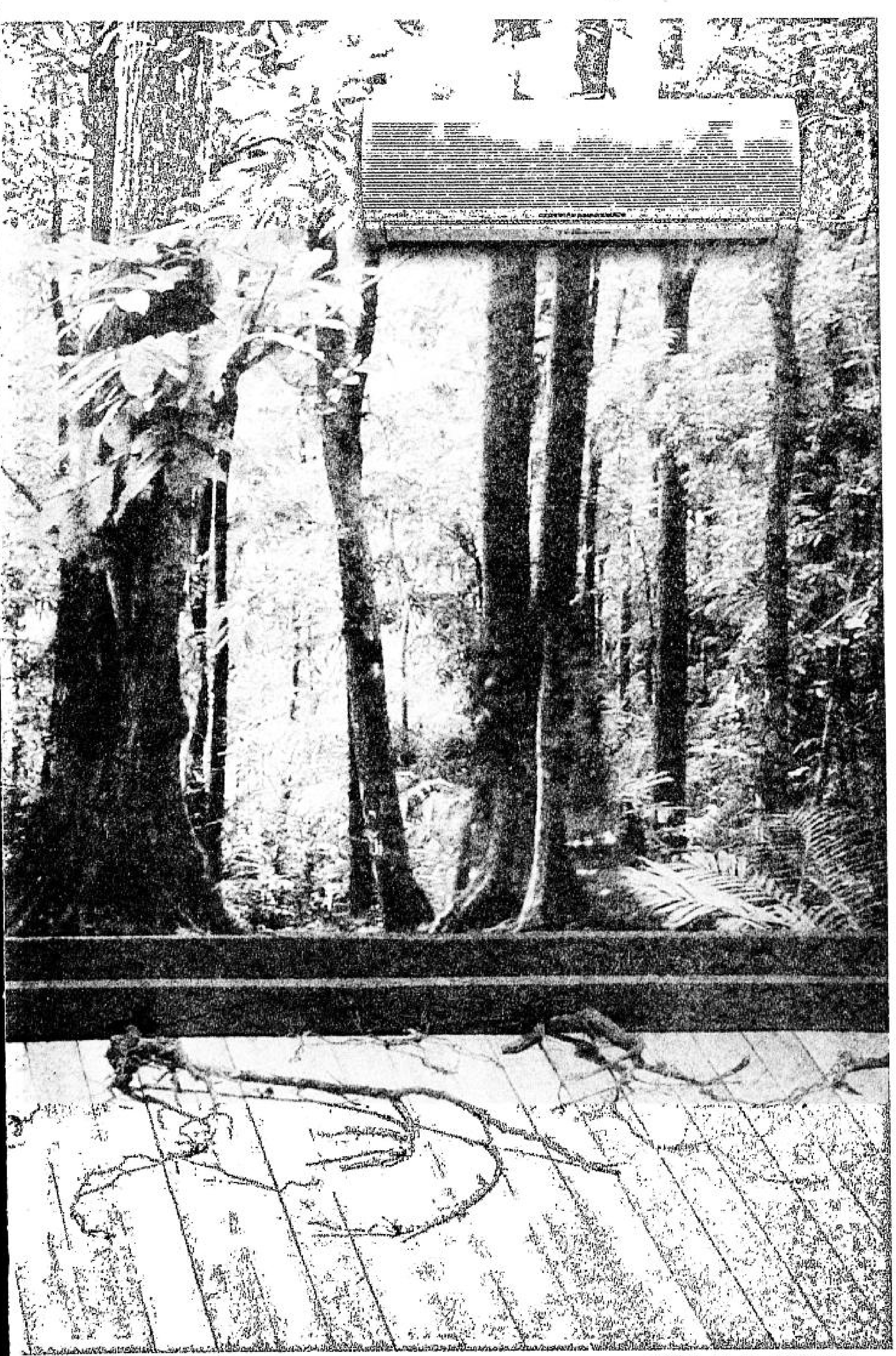
Even school kids who enjoy air conditioned rooms are now prone to allergies and even high-risk illnesses such as chronic respiratory irritation. Mothers shouldn't take this for granted. Simple sneezing cannot be dismissed as being caused by the changing weather alone.

More schools now have air-conditioned classrooms, and even more homes have at least one room in the house airconditioned. While commuting, people prefer vehicles with cooling equipment.

However, the things we thought that make our life easier sometimes have a damaging effect on our bodies.

We can prevent this. Be aware of the risk factors and avoid them as much as possible. Be wary of the things you buy: reading the labels will not eat so much of your time. Stay informed about products that pose a risk to family health.

It may be a cliché but nontheless this still rings true in our technology-driven society: An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.



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4	

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8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	KAPALIT
10	MEN IN BLACK II
11	FOREVERMORE
12	HIYAS SA PARAISO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	KAPALIT
4	FOREVERMORE
5	BIG FAT LIAR
6	THIRD WHEEL
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	MEN IN BLACK II

SM SOUTHMALL

8006888

1	THIRD WHEEL
2	BAD COMPANY
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	HIGH CRIMES
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	FOREVERMORE
7	KAPALIT
8	MEN IN BLACK II
9	MINORITY REPORT
10	POWER PUFF GIRLS

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	PRIVATE FUNCTION
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	SLACKERS
4	KAPALIT
5	FOREVERMORE
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	MEN IN BLACK II

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	TAMPISAW
2	CLOSED
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	SLACKERS
6	MEN IN BLACK II
7	CLOSED
8	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128016

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	POWER PUFF GIRLS
4	FOREVERMORE
5	SLACKERS
6	KAPALIT

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294875

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	KAPALIT

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	KAPALIT
3	FOREVERMORE
4	HIGH CRIMES

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	BAD COMPANY
5	MEN IN BLACK II
6	MINORITY REPORT

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

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4	THIRD WHEEL
5	KAPALIT
6	MEN IN BLACK II
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	HIGH CRIME
9	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
10	BAD COMPANY

Ermita

536-7809-12

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	POWER PUFF GIRLS
3	HIGH CRIME
4	THIRD WHEEL
5	KAPALIT
6	MEN IN BLACK II
7	MINORITY REPORT

Metro East -

Marcos Hway 682 8193 / 8280

1	THIRD WHEEL
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	HIGH CRIME
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	MEN IN BLACK II
6	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
7	POWERPUFF GIRLS
8	KAPALIT

Novaliches

935-3229-30

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	THIRD WHEEL
3	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4	HIGH CRIME
5	POWER PUFF GIRLS
6	KAPALIT
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	FOREVERMORE

Imus

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1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	KAPALIT
6	HIGH CRIME

Bacolod

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1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	POWER PUFF GIRLS
3	FOREVERMORE
4	EMELIE
5	HARDBALL
6	BAD COMPANY

Iloilo

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1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	KATAWAN
3	SLACKERS
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
5	TAMPISAW
6	BAD COMPANY

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3	KAPALIT
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	SLACKERS
6	

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Soda, banana appease hostage taker

By Tina Santos

A BOTTLE of soft drink and a banana were all it took for an allegedly mentally disturbed man to surrender peacefully after he held hostage for more than 12 hours his own wife and their 4-year-old adopted son inside their house in Caloocan City on Friday.

Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo negotiated with vendor Leoner Romero Sr., 28, a resident of Libis Nadurata, District II, Caloocan.

Romero, who took hostage his wife Zenaida, 50, and their son Leoner Jr., surrendered peacefully to the mayor after he was offered a banana and a bottle of soft drink which he had asked from the authorities.

PO2 Joel Aquino and PO1 Marlon Bingayen said the hostage drama started at about 6 a.m. when Romero, who was released only last year from the National Center for Mental Health, and his wife had an argument.

Police said Romero had not allowed his wife and their son to leave the house as his illness started to hound him again.

Zenaida told police that Romero has a family history of mental illness and that it has been aggravated by his apparent use of illegal drugs.

At about 3 p.m. Friday, Romero took a 17-inch jungle bolo, grabbed his son and asked for Malonzo, police said.

Zenaida's pleas for him to release the boy caught the attention of their neighbors who called police.

Together with the members of the Caloocan police, Malonzo negotiated with Romero, who asked for food because he said he was hungry.

After Malonzo gave him soft drink and banana, Romero immediately surrendered himself and his weapon.

Romero was charged with serious illegal detention, police said.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPALIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK II
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIMES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK II
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE THIRD WHEEL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAPALIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK II
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BUKANG BIBIG / BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE
ODEON	MEN IN BLACK II
ODEON-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	KAPALIT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HART'S WAR / SCORPION KING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAPALIT
REMAR	KAPALIT
REMAR-2	SUGAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KAPALIT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 10 19)
CINEMA-1	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-2	KAPALIT
CINEMA-3	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
CINEMA-7	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-8	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-12	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-14	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-15	KAPALIT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-2	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-5	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-6	MEN IN BLACK 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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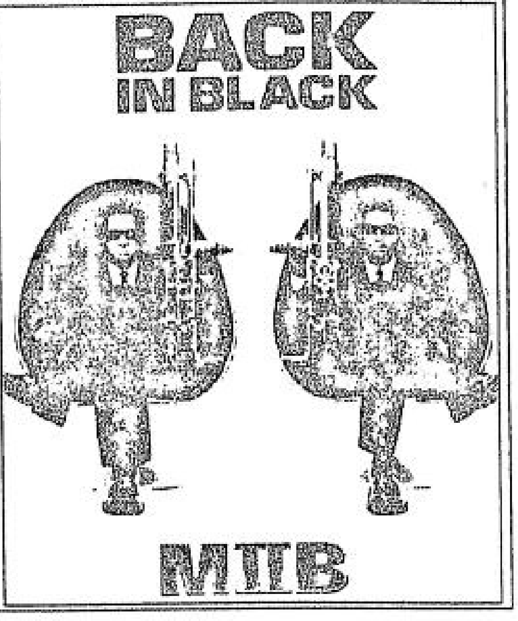

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1 MEN IN BLACK 2	1 MINORITY REPORT 2 THE THIRD WHEEL	1 THE KING IS ALIVE	1 MINORITY REPORT 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20	1 MEN IN BLACK 2
2 THE THIRD WHEEL	3 MEN IN BLACK 2 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 MEN IN BLACK 2 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 KAPALIT	4 LIFE OR SOMETHING... 5 POWER PUFF GIRLS	Onstage PAROKYA NI EDGAR @ ONSTAGE JULY 10 (FRI.) - 9 PM HOTDOG & BOYFRIENDS JULY 20	3 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	3 THE THIRD WHEEL
4 POWERPUFF GIRLS	6 MEN IN BLACK 2 7 HIGH CRIMES		4 POWERPUFF GIRLS 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30, 11:20 THIRD WHEEL 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 POWER PUFF GIRLS 5 HIGH CRIMES

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THIRD WHEEL - P 13 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	MEN IN BLACK 2 - P13 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50,	MEN IN BLACK 2 - P 13 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
HIGH CRIMES - P13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	POWER PUFF GIRLS - P 13 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	MENI IN BLACK 2 - P 13 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10

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P 13
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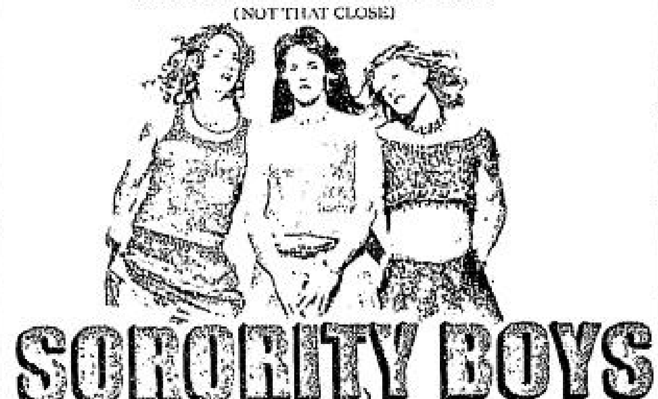

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SATURDAY,
JULY 20, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◉ *Assistant Editor* Corrie S. Narisma

Import growth eases to 2.9% in May

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S imports expanded for the fourth consecutive month in May by a modest 2.9 percent compared with the three-year high of 19.7 percent in April as domestic inventory build-up tapered off after a dramatic surge in previous months.

Economists said the growth was strong enough to signal that a tentative recovery in manufacturing was at least being maintained.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that expenditures for imported goods reached $2.76 billion compared with $2.68 billion a year ago, still fueled by shipments of electronics and components which grew by 38 percent.

Analysts said the slower growth in May was partly due to rising costs of importation due to the failure of the peso to cope with the sharp appreciation of other currencies in the region.

It is not something to worry about, however, as there has been sufficient shipment of raw materials and intermediate goods and capital goods in the previous months that would fuel the export growth in the months ahead, the analysts noted.

At the very least, the slower growth in imports allowed the Philippines to post a trade surplus of $158 million for the month, reversing the $81-million deficit a year ago.

From January to May, the import bill has now increased by 3.3 percent to $13.07 billion while export receipts have likewise expanded by 2.7 percent to $13.77 billion from a year ago. This translated to a five-month trade surplus of $707 million or 7.5 percent better than a year ago.

For the month of May, imports of unprocessed and semi-processed raw materials—which include electronics and components—rose by 14.1 percent, accounting for 42.4 percent of total bill.

On the other hand, the importation of capital goods, which accounted for 37 percent of the total bill, such as telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery fell by 2.9 percent from a year ago.

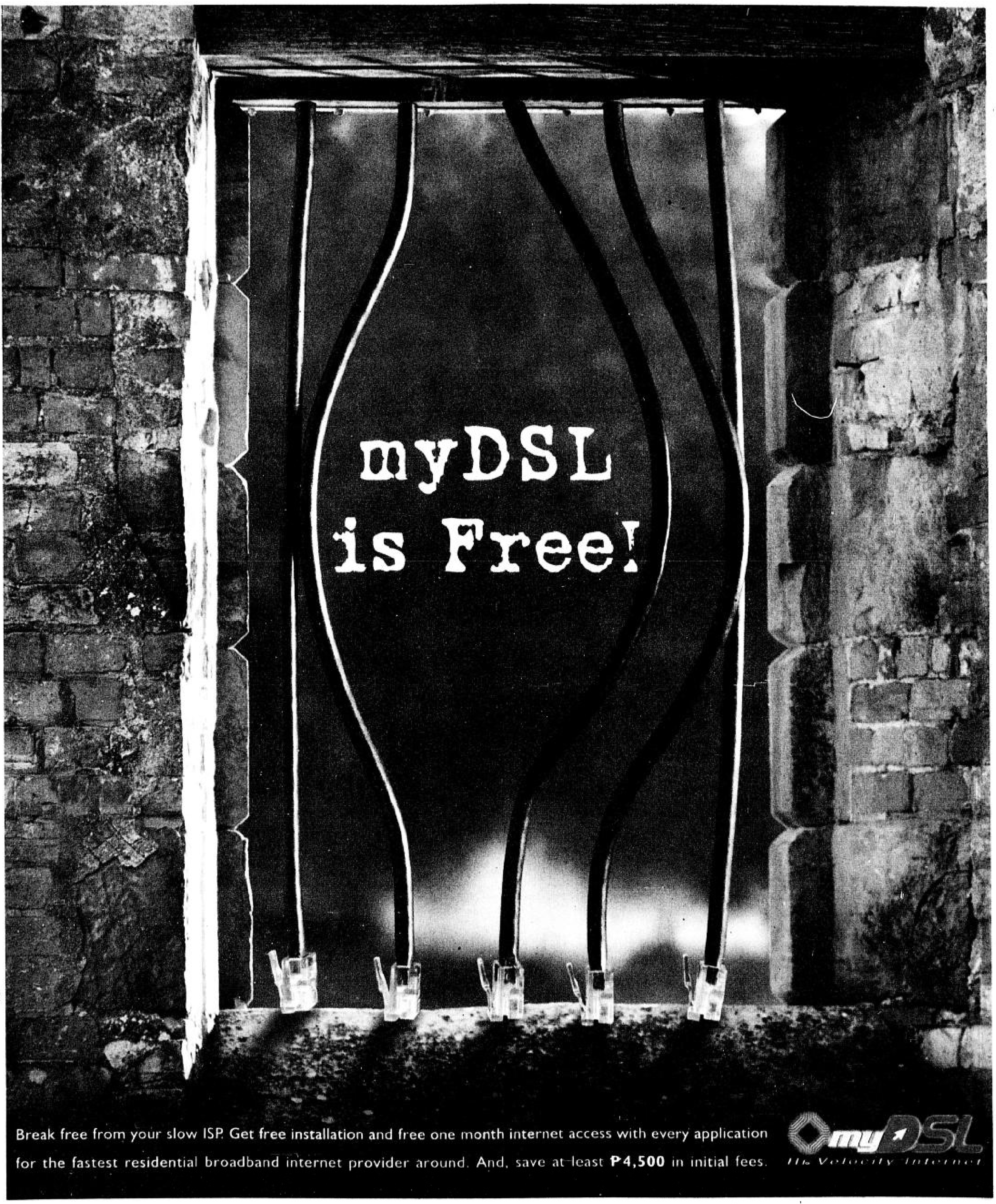
Purchases of mineral fuel and lubricants increased by 2.9 percent while expenditures for consumer goods dropped by 14.9 percent.

The United States and Japan remained as the country's top sources of imports, respectively accounting for 20.4 percent and 20.3 percent of total expenditures.

In an interview, Equitable PCI Bank chief market strategist Michael Ricafort said the slower growth did not come as a surprise as the local currency had been a laggard in the Asian region as far as appreciation against the weakening dollar was concerned.

"The feedback from a lot of im-

IMPORT/ B2



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Put Manny where the mouth is

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FROM the boardroom and the courts, the fight for control of PLDT is shifting to the news media. This is at least what I gather from my friends in this racket . . . este, work.

Doing the usual rounds of media is this well-funded demolition job against—but who else – PLDT president and CEO Manny Pangilinan.

Managing the campaign is a former head of the PR department of a multinational petroleum corporation. Shh! That's between us, girls!

From what I heard, several media and PR specialists already approached columnists and other media people for the smear job against Manny.

Supporting the, ahh, "loaded" PR campaign against Manny is the Salim group, which hails from Indonesia, and First Pacific, which is based in Hong Kong.

Those groups had to hire local PRs, because their mouthpiece in Hong Kong was not effective. They could not put Manny where their badmouthing is.

The origin of the anti-Manny campaign, plus the, er, "campaign" funds, should now be both Indonesia and Hong Kong. See, even demolition jobs here are imported.

* * *

ANYWAY, even with the anti-Manny campaign, nobody expects widespread panic over PLDT shares in the stock market anymore.

Thanks to the ongoing fight for control of the company, the stock market has nothing to worry about big drops in PLDT stock prices. The big drops already happened.

With the reported raid of the Gokongwei and Salim groups into PLDT, the price of the stock has been dropping almost every day without letup. Does that tell us something?

Even to people in the stock exchange, investors, if any, are not the least bit worried over the twists and turns of events in the PLDT takeover story.

The fight for control of PLDT, indeed, is getting ugly. Not only that, it is getting nasty. Panic may not happen in the stock market, sure, but I fear for my telephone service.

I don't like it when some moneyed groups from abroad play around with the company which gives me a vital service. Why can't they just play with themselves?

* * *

HALF of the second leg of the World Grand Prix, an international professional women's volleyball tournament, started in Manila yesterday.

Half of the tournament means that four teams are competiting here, namely, Brazil, Germany, Japan and Russia. The other half is being played in Thailand.

Now touring Asia, with the finals to be held in Hong Kong, the pro tournament boasts of a prize money this year of more than $1 million. It is big business.

It is the biggest purse in any women's sporting event. No wonder, the volleyball games are played with a lot of intensity. A million is still a million.

Now, being on its 10th tournament, the tournament has already established a worldwide following. Television viewers all over the world run up to millions.

It's the first international event, with full international television coverage, for this cute administration of Gloriaetta. It is, for a change, something positive.

The Philippines is getting such a priceless exposure. It is getting several hours of international television on a positive note. Nothing is going to be said about kidnapping.

* * *

I'M sure you read about that survey of big business—the famous pre-Sona survey of the Makati Business Club, which has a strong following of quite a few members only.

Anyway, according to the survey, business thinks, or at least big business thinks that things are looking up. They cited higher economic growth and more exports.

And that's why, even with such a positive outlook on the economy, big business, still based on the MBC survey, simply doesn't want to invest.

Those in big business, in effect, are just saying that they think we are probably going to do just fine, but they themselves still don't want to bet on it.

In other words, they are not putting their money where their mouth is. Down here, we know it simply as losing one's pair of spheroids.

* * *

THIS coming Monday, Gloriaetta will deliver her second Sona. Already, everybody is talking about it. To them, the Sona is either good or bad.

This is the first ever Sona which I have not yet even heard, and yet it is already getting all sorts of reaction from every Tom, Dick and Harry called Band . . . Wrist Band.

That's something new, and this is the first time that I ever hear a lot of people reacting to something that has not yet happened.

Still, Gloriaetta can expect other people to agree with whatever she says in the Sona. If she says we landed a Pinoy on Mars, who are the "yes" men to say "no?" No?

Whether or not she can take their reaction as the honest truth is a different story. It always pays for her to sift through the reaction, particularly the friendly . . . well, fire.

For the Sona is never meant to be a gauge of popularity. It is something for us to take stock of ourselves. Where am I? Where am I going? How good looking am I?

In the Sona, I always want my President to fire me up. One way of firing up people is for their leader to tell them how desperate a lot of things are getting.

It's all about this back-against-the wall psychology. Frankly, I'd rather hear Gloriaetta says things in the Sona which most of us, still in denial, do not want to hear.

Maybe that's the only way to inspire the nation to do right.

DESPITE LOWER INTEREST RATES

Loans to private sector down 3.7%

By Clarissa S. Batino

TOTAL loans extended to the private sector by commercial banks and other lending agencies—including state-owned pension funds and insurance firms—continued to fall despite lower interest rates this year.

The entire system's loans to private groups and individuals dropped 3.7 percent in May to P1.424 trillion from P1.478 trillion last year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said loans from the commercial banks in the same month slid by 1.8 percent to P1.41 trillion from May last year's level. The BSP, however, pointed out that the rate of decline was lower than the 2.2-percent contraction registered in April.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank would like to see a 10-percent improvement in bank lending in the coming months to help bring down the ratio of the banks' problematic accounts to a single-digit level from the current 18.43 percent of their total loan portfolio.

In contrast, credits extended to the public sector grew by 2.8 percent in May as banks and other financial groups opted to put their money on risk-free government securities for lack of other investment options.

As a result of the lackluster lending activity, the money supply in the system grew by 6.9 percent in May to P1.57 trillion compared with the previous year's level. In April, the domestic liquidity improved by 6.6 percent.

"The steady growth in domestic liquidity can be attributed partly to the increase in net foreign assets arising from the decline in foreign exchange liabilities of financial institutions. In addition, the banks' preference for peso deposits over foreign currency deposits reduced the foreign currency liabilities of the monetary system," the BSP said in a statement.

Buenaventura said the central bank was targeting an 11-percent growth in domestic liquidity this year.

"With the pace in money supply growth, we have plenty of room to keep rates where they are now and to remain neutral for some time," said the BSP governor.

The central bank said it could keep its overnight rates steady at 7 percent for lending and 9.25 percent for borrowing given the manageable level of money supply in the system.

"Banks are still hesitant to lend to individuals and small companies who need the money while the big borrowers see no room yet for expansion and thus, no need for fresh loans," said a central bank official.

Also, monetary authorities are keeping at 16 percent the reserve requirement imposed on banks in view of the sufficient liquidity in the system.

Reducing the banks' mandatory deposits in the BSP will only flood the system with more cash that will not be useful, said a central bank official.

The central bank pointed out that the excess capacity of the manufacturing sector contributed to a sluggish lending activity in May. As of March, the average capacity utilization stood at 75.6 percent.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

To All Stockholders:

Please be advised that the annual meeting of the stockholders of ANGLO PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORPORATION will be held on Friday, July 26, 2002, at 3:00 p.m., at the Santan Rooms 1 & 2, Shangri-La EDSA Plaza Hotel, 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

The following is the agenda of the meeting:

1. Call to order
2. Proof of notice and certification of quorum
3. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting of the stockholders
4. Management Report and Audited Financial Statements for year ended December 31, 2001
5. Ratification of Previous Corporate Acts
6. Election of Directors
7. Appointment of External Auditors
8. Other Matters
9. Adjournment

For purposes of the meeting, stockholders of record as of June 24, 2002 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting. Registration for the said meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. For convenience in registering your attendance, please have available some form of identification, such as a driver's license, voter's ID, TIN card, SSS card or passport.

If you will not be able to attend the meeting but would like to be represented thereat, you may submit your proxy form, duly signed and accomplished, to the Corporate Secretary at the 6th Floor, Quad Alpha Centrum, 125 Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City, not later than July 19, 2002. Corporate stockholders should also provide a notarized secretary's certificate attesting to the appointment of the corporation's representative and/or proxy for the meeting as well as the execution and delivery of the proxy form. Management would like to solicit your proxy to vote on the above matters and a proxy form is enclosed for this purpose.

Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines, June 14, 2002.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO V. SAN JOSE
Corporate Secretary

SEC adopts 'fit and proper' rule for directors of listed companies

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has decided to take a closer look into listed companies to make sure that board directors and key officials are fit for their jobs.

SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista said this was resolved by commission en banc following complaints over possible conflict of interest issues of some officials in listed companies that may violate the Corporation Code.

Bautista said that the SEC would give priority to those listed companies "where we have a primary duty to protect investors."

The commission also issued additional terms and conditions in the registration of securities and the granting of secondary licenses.

Under the new provisions, companies that apply for the registration of more securities or who apply for a secondary license must show that directors and officers are "fit and proper" for their responsibilities.

The SEC also reserves the right to intervene and resolve conflicts regarding the selection of independent directors.

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Import . . .

From page B1

porters is that it has been difficult for them because importation has become more expensive as the peso has not appreciated as much," Ricafort said, noting, however that this would benefit the local export sector by making their prices competitive in the global market.

Ricafort also noted that the May import level was but a "healthy technical correction" and a "laggard indicator" of the slower expansion of the global economy in the second quarter compared to a robust first quarter.

"Hopefully, the recovery will continue toward the fourth quarter," Ricafort said, noting that the country's imports seasonally peaked in July and August and exports in August and September.

Unlike last year when the global slowdown had badly hit the industry sector, which included manufacturing, the sector was expected to better contribute to economic growth this year, Ricafort said.

DBS Vickers Securities analyst Jomar Lacson, on the other hand, said the moderate May growth in imports was way below his institution's expectation of a 12.9-percent growth.

He said the slower growth came as a surprise in view of the strong volume growth in TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) indicated by port operators like International Container Terminal Services Inc. for May and June.

However, he said the slower growth in imports would not necessarily weigh down the rosy prospects of exports for the rest of the year.

"If you are looking at a trade-off, the good part of it is that it won't widen the trade deficit," Lacson said.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said that in the first few months of the year, the world was bullish on the recovery of US and Japan.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, July 19, 2002

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	17	17	59,900
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	95	100	95	100	600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	50.5	49	50	948,500
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	30	28	30	192,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	34	33	33.5	197,500
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	6,700
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	28	26	26.5	3,800
Security Bank Corp.	14	14	14	14	800
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	19	19	19	104,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	40,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1290	1290	1290	2,760
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	990	980	990	350
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.64	0.69	0.64	0.69	4,140,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	530	540	525	530	2,520
ISM Communications Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	7,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Piltel	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	8,400,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	80,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	332.5	342.5	330	335	149,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	74,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20	22.5	20	21	10,100
Manila Electric Co. B	28	29.5	28	29.5	700,800
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.76	3,917,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.78	13,113,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	61,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.7	90,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	13	92,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33	33	33	33	291,000
RFM Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.95	660,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47	47	47	57,900
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	53.5	53.5	100,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.5	5,989,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.44	2.6	2.4	2.55	14,012,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	2,730,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.3	4.3	3.3	4.3	4,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	510,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	15.25	15.25	14.5	15.25	2,069,400
Ionics Inc.	6	6	6	6	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	120,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.69	7,320,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,860,000
Music Corp.	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.17	290,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	33,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.28	850,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	4,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.45	0.51	0.45	0.5	330,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.7	6,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.25	23.25	23	23	103,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	9,946,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	70,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	800,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.3	1,201,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.88	1,360,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	24,000
SM Development Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	9,148,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev. Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.185	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	150,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	9,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	16,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	160,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	6,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.34	0.4	0.34	0.4	130,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000

CURRENCIES

July 19, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.988826	1.000000	50.3810
Japan	Yen	0.008486	0.008582	0.4324
United Kingdom	Pound	1.555819	1.573400	79.2695
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.126774	0.128207	6.4592
Switzerland	Franc	0.682702	0.690417	34.7839
Canada	Dollar	0.640308	0.647543	32.6239
Singapore	Dollar	0.569272	0.575705	29.0046
Australia	Dollar	0.545409	0.551572	27.7887
Bahrain	Dinar	2.623021	2.652661	133.6437
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.263673	0.266652	13.4342
Brunei	Dollar	0.566987	0.573394	28.8882
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000114	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024385	0.024661	1.2424
UAE	Dirham	0.269245	0.272287	13.7181
Korea	Won	0.000852	0.000862	0.0434
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.011300	50.9503
Argentina	Real	0.280121	0.283286	14.2722
Brazil	Real	0.345019	0.348918	17.5788
Denmark	Kroner	0.134379	0.135897	6.8466
India	Rupee	0.020305	0.020534	1.0345
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.260252	0.263193	13.2599
Mexico	New Peso	0.102299	0.103455	5.2122
New Zealand	Dollar	0.477394	0.482789	24.3234
Norway	Kroner	0.135049	0.136575	6.8808
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016481	0.016667	0.8397
South Africa	Rand	0.099481	0.100605	5.0686
Sweden	Kroner	0.107342	0.108555	5.4691
Syria	Pound	0.019238	0.019455	0.9802
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030156	0.030497	1.5365
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000752	0.000760	0.0383

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. clarified that contrary to claims of **First Pacific's** executive director and general counsel Ronald Brown, PLDT's board of directors and its management have remained focus on the operations and affairs of the company.

* * *

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. bought 1,000 of its own shares from the open market at P2.50 per share.

* * *

Bi Yong Chungunco resigned as director of both **Fortune Cement Corp.** and **Republic Cement Corp.**

* * *

SALCON Power Corp. bought 4 million of its own shares at an average price of P1.78 per share.

* * *

RFM Corp. disclosed that one of its major stockholders, **Invest Asia Corp.**, will sell 182.4 million common shares of RFM to its stockholders. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Trade chief says investment decline not alarming

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II yesterday twitted businessmen for worrying too much on plunging investment inflows in the country which in his view remained healthy.

Roxas said he did not see the 64.26-percent drop in investments registered with the Board of Investments and the 20.43-percent fall in projects registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) as "particularly worrisome" considering the state of the global economy and the lack of big infrastructure projects this year.

Roxas said that the dearth in investments in the first five months this year was largely due to the wait-and-see mode taken by businessmen in the last few months last year due to the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Roxas also said last year's investment tally was bloated by massive telecommunication projects of Globe Telecom and Smart Communications Inc. which accounted for P15 billion of the P52 billion worth of projects registered with the BOI last year.

A survey by the Makati Business Club showed that businessmen were cautious of the country's prospects in the coming years because new investments were drying up and more companies were cutting down their workforce.

MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said this trend was particularly worrying because this would indicate a potential problem for the country in the future.

The MBC survey showed that the Department of Trade and Industry's ranking tumbled from number 5 to number 6 among the 33 government agencies due to ebbing investments. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

DTI joins campaign against pyramiding firms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has joined the government's intensified campaign to flush out pyramiding schemes that have proliferated in these hard, economic times.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the DTI Consumer Welfare and Trade Regulation Group was set to issue by the end of this month a Department Administrative Order (DAO), which would put more teeth to the laws currently enforced against get-rich-quick scams.

The draft order is currently with the DTI's legal affairs office, which is currently checking if the provisions of the DAO do not run counter to other laws implemented by the DTI.

The draft DAO is expected to prohibit sales schemes where agents or recruiters get their income by enlisting more participants into the scheme or through the multiple resale of goods with mark-up from level to level. The DTI noted that sales plans of pyramiding schemes normally require entry fees or compulsory purchases of a fixed quantity of products for the right to join the scheme. The pyramid scam master then uses the fees collected from new recruits to pay off claims by old recruits; a participant's income was based on the participant's slot based on time, date and order of participation; and participants are not allowed to return the products or get a refund.

Cristobal said the main basis of enforcement against pyramiding scams was the Consumer Act of the Philippines or RA 7394, which prohibits the employment of chain distribution plans or pyramid schemes in the sale of products.

Pyramiding has flourished in the Philippines because of the absence of a central government agency handling these cases as these infractions fall under several state bodies including the DTI, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The lack of information on these illegal transactions has also made thousands of Filipinos fall prey to these financial rip-offs.

Monsanto backs strict RP rules on GMOs

GLOBAL agricultural research firm Monsanto said it was supporting the Philippine government's strict approach to the adoption and commercialization of plants and plant products that have undergone biotechnology or genetic engineering process.

Monsanto government and public affairs director Noel Borlongan said the Philippines has one of the strictest regulations concerning biotech plants and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Philippine laws do not allow the random entry or introduction of said products, especially those that pertain to the agriculture sector. An inter-agency body called the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) oversees and regulates research activities involving genetic engineering or the introduction of related products.

Borlongan said the country's strict regulations "ensure that genetically engineered products introduced into the Philippines adhere to the highest standards of safety, both for the benefit of people and environment."

PLDT welcomes disclosure of FirstPac deal

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said it welcomed First Pacific's decision to finally disclose to the US Securities and Exchange Commission its memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Gokongwei group.

In a statement, PLDT said the decision was a positive development for the rules on full and fair disclosure and good corporate governance. It is also good for all PLDT shareholders who have the right to information concerning the possible transfer of a significant block of PLDT shares.

However, the company said it regretted that First Pacific had to be brought to court first before it finally decided to comply with the basic requirement of informing PLDT investors of the binding MOA with the Gokongwei group.

PLDT noted that it was forced to resort to legal action when First Pacific refused to provide a copy of the MOA despite PLDT's written request to file the agreement as part of First Pacific's schedule 13-D report.

Napocor to bid out Makati lots

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. said it was considering bidding out its properties in Makati, including the 2-hectare Mile Long strip, adding that it would give existing locators the right to match the best offers.

A Napocor official, who asked not to be named, said in an interview that this was among the many options that the power firm was considering in privatizing its prime properties in the business district.

He said another option was to continue with the existing contracts on terms that were more acceptable. This will entail the renegotiation of the contracts.

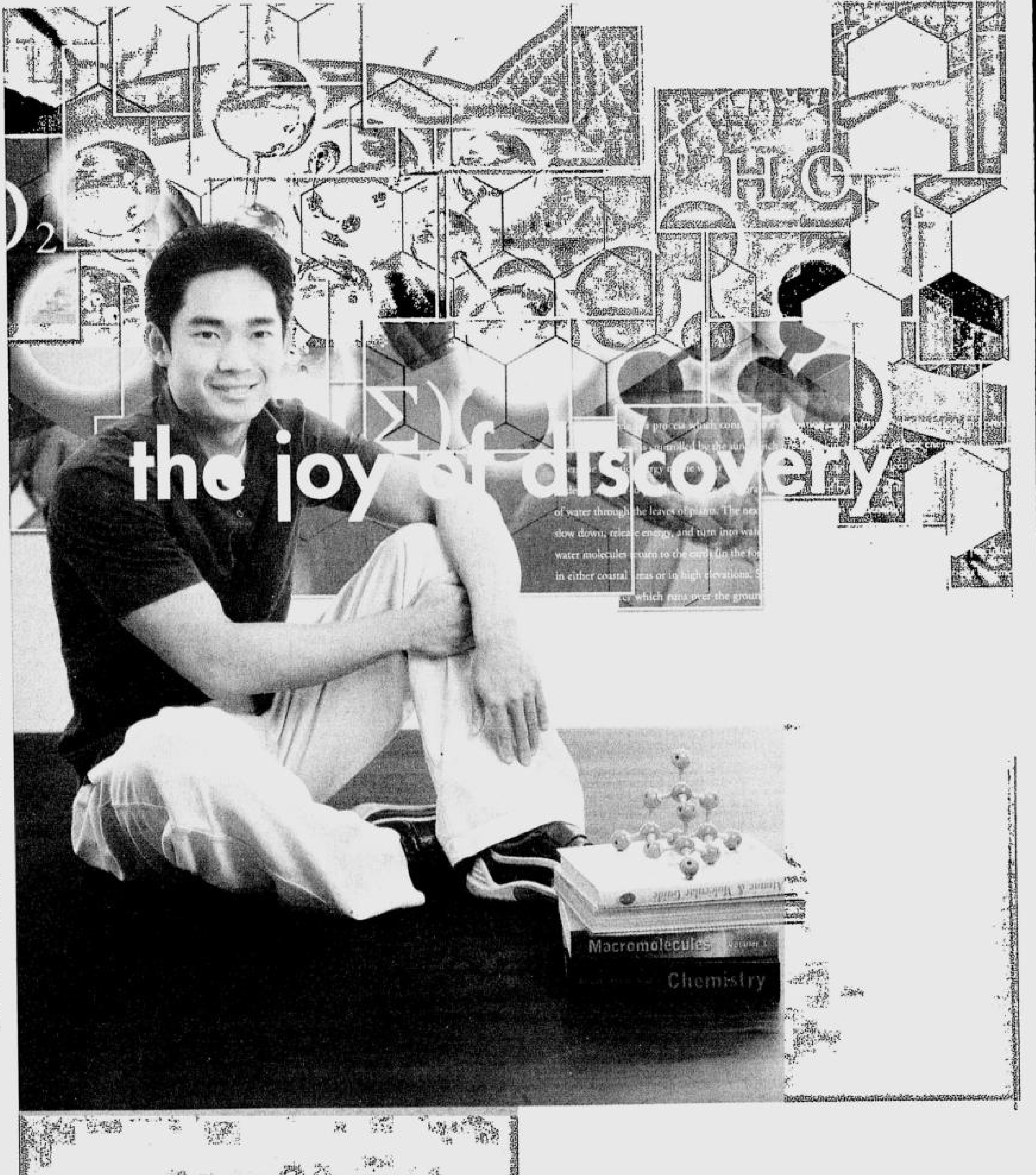
The official said it would be best for both parties to explore all options available in settling the matter without going to court.

Napocor general counsel Ranier Butalid said in a telephone interview that the parcels of land occupied by the Makati fire station and central post office could be "privatized right away."

"These (lots) present less problems since we will be dealing with the Makati city government," Butalid said.

Juan Miguel Laurel, president of the Mile Long Association that groups leaseholders in the 2.2-ha strip, said the group might have to ask some form of payment proportional to what was spent in securing the lease before agreeing to a bidding.

Laurel said Sunvar Realty Development Corp. paid "about P800" per square meter to lease the Mile Long strip. In turn, Sunvar Realty sold its lease rights to the present leaseholders.



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L-BAHAY 712-16-92

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

Lipat Bahay Mla 2 Any Pt. of Luzon •801-1578/805-4913•

LIPAT BAHAY
w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc
7128861 / 7315750

LIPAT-BAHAY •776-7680•

TRUCKING P400 •729-6278•

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa 820-7068 09195127870

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. frnt College T-6414589, 09175372340

64.383T sqm Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414589, 09175372340

OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Beautiful Hse Full Furn Lancaster St. Hillsborough Alabang Zeny 850-5901

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN Cal City LA240m² FA104m² 2BR 1TB P1.2M Vic /Gie 8903461 loc. 27

MARIKINA

Rush! Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-2429078

PARANAQUE

Rush Nice 211 Dona Soledad Ext Bet Living Commercial Bob 0919-6857433 8370966

PASIG

ISUZU ELF NKR/NPR 230T 687-0963 /0917-8951969

RUSHI KAPITOLYO PASIG VIC 631-9792 / 687-0963

QUEZON CITY

212LA 105FA 4BR 2TB 111 Ilocos Sur St. Bago Bantay Q.C. 09178392388

Californian Inspired!
Kamias New 6BR/4TB 2CG
#75 K-9 St 4.8M neg 3725866

Nova P6T/mo 11yrs 9390299

OTHER AREAS

LAGUNA BEL AIR 3
"Affordable na, first class pa"
Hurry! 95 units left 0917-9114250 Luis

Rush!CanyonWoods Bingas P6.5M Call 0918-5052638

LOT

MANILA

150sqm (15m L x 10m W) 2307 A. Aquino St., cor. A. Francisco St., Malate, Mla Call: 0916-3800070

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREEN-HEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS VACANT LOTS @31T-38T/m² 6337601-03

BF HOMES 666SQM
TFL # 0920-7755681

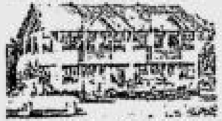
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

COASTAL
WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO
TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

VILLA FELIZA
HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000



FORTE REALTY
520-0108 776-4604
871-8318 961-7521
872-7603 815-2144
829-5081 810-7183
810-8019
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visit us at
www.forterealty.com

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JUBILEE VILLAS

Celebrate Life
Create Happy Memories
Newly constructed top-quality unit 3-BR w/2 T&B, Attic, maid's room laundry area, 2-car garage customized interior colors, excellent amenities, prime location
GFA 110 - 135 SQM
INDIVIDUAL LOT TITLE
PHASE 1 SOLD OUT
CONSTRUCTION ON-GOING FOR PHASES 2 - 3
2 UNITS READY FOR OCCUPANCY
RESERVE NOW
PRICES START AT 3.1 M
EASY PAYMENT TERMS
BANK FINANCING AVLBLE
VISIT US TODAY AND VIEW OUR MODEL UNIT
90 BANLAT ROAD, TANDANG SORA, QC
FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CALL
ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tels 7515472, 8182781
www.jubileevillas.com
Email: jubvila@info.com.ph
HLURB License #04012

PROVINCIAL

HOUSE & LOT FOR SALE
Near Muslim Mosque
Brand New 1.6M 2BR 2TB
Meycauayan, Bulacan
Tel. 294-0659;
(044) 228-3086
0917-5382463

LOT

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots New Phase
204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(in 2 months)
Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest
HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB
150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @
P6M P13M 2 yrs - 10 yrs
Term w/ Complete Facilities
9319117 ★ 9319160 T.Banez

RIZAL

177 sqm Valle View Subd. Cainta, Rizal Tel. 9260267

PROVINCIAL

1607 sqm Santo Cristo Nueva Ecija Tel. 9260267

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

Tagaytay Comm Lot Intrt. Mahogany Market 580, 594 498 sqm # 0917-6948060

TANAUAN, BATANGAS 1000m @P2I good 4 gas stn 801-6251

TANZA, CAVITE 1,024m² P600th clean title 801-6251

Victoria Laguna 1,150m² Along Lag. Lake 1800/m² Neg. 0918-3338262; (049)2483232

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

MODEL HOMES
OPEN FOR VIEWING!

MENLO
Ideal living. Perfected.
BF Homes, Parañaque City
HOMES FOR SALE
TWO-STOREY 3-4 BR / 2 T&B
Maids Rm w/toilet/2 CARS

RGV	- 843-5935	ADDEE	- 805-9117
LANIE	- 850-8557	LUDIE	- 677-3142
ROSE	- 983-3306	MIEN	- 822-5123

OPEN HOUSE ON SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2002!
BF CITI REALTY
BF CITI LAND CORPORATION

PROVINCIAL

PROVINCIAL

HOUSE and LOT
Sto. Cristo, Pulilan, Bulacan

AREA OF 1,000 SQM. WITH BUNGALOW HOUSE "5 BRS., 2 TOILETS," BUILDING "5 BRS. 3 T&B, BIG KUBO" W/ VERANDA, 2 BRMS. WITH SWIMMING POOLS, 1 BIG FOR ADULTS AND FOR KIDS, OWNER LEAVING, DIRECT BUYERS ONLY. AMOUNT: 6M

and

AREA OF 300 SQM LOT WITH ONE BIG KUBO, TWO BRMS., BEHIND THE HOUSE. AMOUNT OF 400,000.00 ONLY
Please look for Butch with Tel. # 3739672 • 0917-9536335

LOT

MAKATI

PROPERTY FOR SALE
Lot - 355 sq m.
House - 53.25 sq.m.
Address - 3824 Mascardo Street Tejeros, Makati City
Contact person
Nita del Rosario
Tel. 897-8808 loc. 229

OTHER AREAS

TAGAYTAY 5802m² w/view Back of Iglesia Rush P2T/m² Call Owner 6337601-03

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P600T Vic 8903461L.27

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

Central Park I 31.5sqm P1M Rush! • 0918-3492695

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.320M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

LEE GARDENS CONDO DP 2½ yrs 0%int Bal 5-7yrs Model Unit Viewing Call Larry 0919-3938255 / 8617899

PARANAQUE

Westmont Condo 71sqm 2BR 2TB Sale/Rent • 871-7956/57

PASIG

★Tektite West 109m² 4M 4121825 09177914366

★TektiteEast 266m²@28T 7.5M 4121825 09177914366

TEKTITE EAST TOWER 410m²@36T/m² 6337601-03

SAN JUAN

Metrohomes 3BR 2TB 2.8M Call/Text • 0917-8490890

RESORT

Pansol 2Units Cml 7.3M 7787507

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

Rush Landsdale 45.34sqm FFurnish P2M 09202201489

SCT CASTOR NR MORATO 3br 3tb 2cg 3.5M 6873372

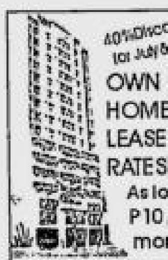
UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.9M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED
ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
COMPARE & CONSIDER:
1. 1st CLASS AMENITIES NAME IT... WE HAVE IT!!!
2. ACCESSIBILITY - SCHOOLS (Ateneo, UP, Miriam, Kotska, PSBA, NCBA), BANKS, Other Bus. Establishments & TRANSPO to any part of M. Mla
3. X'tent VIEW (360°) of the Metropolis w/ roof - top S. POOL & Garden
4. WHY BUY IF NOT FINISHED BUY & TRANSFER NOW! SEE... IS TO BELIEVE!!!
FOR BUSY INVESTORS/BUSINESS MEN WE ARE OPEN UNTIL 9:00 p.m.
FEW UNITS LEFT
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL# : 922-4469/921-4883 : 433-7668/433-8842

QUEZON CITY



40% Discount for July & Aug.
OWN a HOME at LEASE RATES!!!
As low as P10,000 monthly
PYP MANSION II
Prime location, very near E.D.S.A., Araneta Center, MRT & transpo terminals, Just 5 mins. From Ortigas
LIVE IN CONVENIENCE & STYLE w/ Elegant Lobby
Studio, 1,2&3 Bedroom Units
Penthouses, Commercial Units and Ample Parking
EASY TERMS THRU BUY or LEASE TO OWN SCHEME
Tel:7232498,7237811
78 I SANTOS DIAZ ST. CUBAO,QC

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

San Isidro, NE ricefield 1.6ha, Irrigated P1.2M. CL 372-1194-95 (ofc hrs) or 0917-6322567

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

1DR Apt. 2BR 1TB Mayon St. Sta. Ana, Mla T-6649565

2BR Up&Down w/garage 1468 Kundiman 9215797

MANDALUYONG

2BDR w/1TB w/Garage 11 Arayat Mand. City 531-0864

2BR 1TB 1Pkng • 531-6283

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

2Bdrm Roxas QC 725-9419

2BR 2UNITS NEAR P.TUAZON PROJ 4 QC 9125969

2STY 5BR 2CAR GARAGE NR ARNETA CENTER 9116717

3BR Up/Down w/garage Teachers Vill 921-5797

CUBAO Female P3.8 4381480

New Studio Diliman QC 8156172/8173722

•P5.5T Studio T-9267419

SFDM 1&2br 10Tmo 3725866

HOUSE

ALABANG

MALATE 1,2,3 BR UNITS 1.8M UP 0918-9132396

QUEZON CITY

3BR 2TB NR UP P9.5T/mo. 9310685

OTHER AREAS

BET LVG POE 4BR 3TB TEL 2GRG 18T/MO 09177948571

CONDO/TWNHSE

E.A. CAISIP
REALTY
371-9180/371-9181
FULLY FURNISHED with Telephone 1BR 1WR w/ World Class Facilitation and a Hotel Type High Tech Communication System 24--HR Security covering a total of 55.22sqm excluding Parking space P20,000.00/mo. Rental
E.A. CAISIP REALTY

MAKATI

CTL8 PFur 1BR P9T 9299835

LE TRIOMPHE
Unit #705 2BR w/Parking
125 sqm F. Furnished
•Call Myrna 8931043•

LPL MANOR
Unit #1004 S. Type w/Parking
40 sqm F. Furnished
•Call Myrna 8931043•

Mkt 2BR P10.5up Studio P8.5up FreePrkg H2O Tel/Secu 8979417

new studio/2BR/clinic/OFC P8T up no association dues 1672 Dian St., Mktl. nr Buendia. Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

QUEZON CITY

Banawe 9T neg 3BR 4578041

NewManila P18T 3BR 4578041

Nr Munoz Market Edsa 3br2tb P13500/mo. 414-5596 Neth

SAN JUAN

Royal View San Juan 3BR Lt Artiaga St Furnished w3AC CALL: 842-1119 22Th

FOR LEASE

Banawe Highly Com'l 2Sty FLA 500m² P120Th 531-0651

SSHIway 8000m² Adj Inter City Homes P40/m² 531-0651

ROOM & BOARD

AYALA Sta. Rosa 7005221-23

B-DIA PASAY 834-5973 1male FREE L/w 3Tmo

Malate 2Ladies 4.2T 536-8264

New Mla 7005221-22, 7229981

BEDSPACE

5 MALES
call 5105011 0917-8499740

Prof. Single Ladies P1350 33 Oliveros, Mand. 532-9925

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3877623/24

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

97 Club Wagon AT Diesel P875T Call 9425537

HYUNDAI

2000 ATOZ 305T very cute sedan looks like Toyota Echo blue, a/t, very nice cond must see! 7317984/7316550

94 Grace 150t, H-100 230t, 98Starex 495t,2001Starex 690t all power, A1 condition Financing OK! Free LTO Reg'n 731-7984/731-6550

KIA

97Besta2.7 220t, 99Pregio325t 96Asia Topic 245t, all pwr, A1 cond Financing OK! Free LTO Reg'n 7317984/7316550

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MERCEDES

M.BENZ 260E 89/90 EXEC. CAR P465T ONLY 0917-8472911, 0919-5074777

MITSUBISHI

00MX Full Loaded OneOwner Silver •8330796 09175309804•

TOYOTA

96 Toyota Corona M/T Mint P300T •Call 892-7627•

Corona 93 280T 8967234

OTHER CAR BRANDS

★Pajero, Delica, Vans
★Serena, Caravan, Largo
★Lite-Ace, H-Ace, Surf, etc
★Nissan Terrano
★Trucks all models
All units A1 conditioned
No hidden extra cost
Quality convertion
Customer satisfaction guaranteed
ACROSS MARKETING
#40 Sumulong Hiway Mambugan, Antipolo City 6822058 /66/09176007826

Pajero Delica Terrano MV Surf Trooper Hi-Town Ace tax paid 912-0647•0917-8342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

SUPER MEGA SALE
CAR P90T - UP
PICK-UP / 4X4 / VANS
P135T - P240T
6452366/0918-9006000 Jojo

BUSES/TRUCKS

ELF CANTER A1 9124428

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Starex MB100
Coaster Bus
Call 631-3496 • 637-7396

ABC-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, REVO, L300, HiAce, MB100, Altis, Honda, Cefiro, Lancer, Corolla, Lynx, Corona, Exalta, Mazda, Sentra
Manila H.O. 5368822/3039789
Q.C. Br. 4251391 9262314

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

CHEAP VAN 8254058 8261045

HI ACE VANS 8252988

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED TRIUMPH SAVINGS BANK

1. By virtue of Monetary Board Resolution No. 890 dated **June 20, 2002** ordering the liquidation of the closed Triumph Savings Bank, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will resume receiving and processing claims for payment of insured deposits in the closed Triumph Savings Bank-Head Office and Kalookan Branch. Relative thereto, depositors are requested to proceed to the PDIC Claims Counter located at the ground floor, PDIC Bldg., 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City to file claims for insured deposits from **July 24, 2002** to **December 12, 2003**. Depositors may also file their claims by mail addressed to:

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

   PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mondays thru Fridays.
2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:
   a. Original evidence of deposit (i.e. savings passbook, certificate of time deposits and/or latest bank statement and unused check).
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's specimen signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of claims processing.
3. Pursuant to Sec. 11(d) of R.A. 3591, depositors of the closed Triumph Savings Bank - Head Office and Kalookan Branch have 18 months after the order for liquidation or up to **December 12, 2003** to file their claims for insured deposits. After **December 12, 2003**, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the subject bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - July 20 & 22, 2002)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 555-0293 / 840-1440

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

A. OPERATING SYSTEMS/APPLICATION SOFTWARES, COMPUTER WORKSTATION UPGRADE (RE-BID)
Project No.: CD200207
Bid Deadline: August 15, 2002

B. CPU UPGRADES, SMART ARRAY CONTROLLER (FOR COMPAQ SERVER), SDRAM, VIDEO CARDS
Project No.: CD200210
Bid Deadline: August 22, 2002

C. ANALOG LINE CARD, ANALOG TELEPHONE SETS, PABX BATTERY, PROJECTOR SCREEN
Project No.: GS200224
Bid Deadline: August 22, 2002

D. DISCUSSION SYSTEM, MICROPHONES
Project No.: GS200227
Bid Deadline: August 22, 2002

E. LCD PROJECTOR w/ DOCUMENT CAMERA, DIGITAL CAMERA
Project No.: HR200203
Bid Deadline: August 22, 2002

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before **August 8, 2002**. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO JR.
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin. and Estate
Management Services

(PDI--July 20 & 21, 2002)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco Self Drive Carvan Coaster Rental •800-6595•

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166-67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

★USED CAR LOAN 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

P30T-45Tup Kawai Yamaha O/Brds Cash/Terms 9240834

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

BRAND NEW SPY CAMERA COLOR W/ AUDIO P1950 OTHER CAMERA AVAILABLE CALL 9207162 / 9393901

HOME APPLIANCE

34&29"Sony/Tosba REF 10to18 CUFT All A1/imported 7767507 18 units

PETS

COLLIE PUPS 0917-8110317

Dalma Pupy 3F 5M w/Vacc. 0917-9165889 • 952-4220

DOG TRAINER 4528681

★PUGS★SHARPEIS 3725231

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Licensed by the Government
Trains Dogs Scientifically
Tel.# 721-37-36

Professional Dog Trainer
Tel.# 0919-7414590

SHIH-TZU ADULT FEMALE NR. HEAT •890-5885•

SPORTING GOODS

22T Pool Sr New Complt 7767507

Billiard New Style
Hollywood P25T • 837-4694
0917-6485913

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8014494/8020566

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 634-2886

B/SELL EDUC'L 8061574

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269587/4123543

DFCTIVE TV/COMPO 7325865

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

MISCELLANEOUS

4 Sale Pillow Shrt, Bags Design Spiderman, Scooby, P. Puff, H.Kitty, D.Ball Z, Disney (0916)4213989

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061674

B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN 7800106/0917-7939632

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

FAMILY DRIVER
single with NBI clearance 269 Sunset Drive Brookside Hills Subd Cainta 6551557

Our company is in need of:

Secretary

Qualifications:
Female, single, age between 20-25 years old, graduate of 4 years business course, fluent in English and computer literate.

Please apply personally on July 22-25, 2002 from 8:00 to 5:00 to: **JAIPARK CORP. #2402A** West Tower Tektite Bldg., Ortigas, Pasig City **Tel. No. 638-9337 Look for Mr. Oh or Mr. Chang Kim**

FEMALE OFFICE CLERK

Qualifications: 21-25 years old, College graduate, Computer literate with pleasing personality, Must be 5'5" in height.

Apply in person at:

545 Calbayog St., nr. Libertad St.
Mandaluyong City

Monday to Saturday, 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Tel. Nos. 531-0718 / 531-3901
Bring resumé with 2x2 colored photo.

Previous applicants need not apply.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

MESSENGER w/Driver's License •CALL:821-3676•

FEMALE

CLINIC NURSE 631-3496

FACIAL THERAPIST
Call 7151093 ask Sonia

Maid 6389006/08 bail amo

Pharmacist Lic. Call 435-1535 • 435-9238 Nimia

Xtech Midwife Nurse reg non 6822941 pref Cainta

MALE/FEMALE

★OFFICE STAFF★
18-45.w/ w/o exp START ASAP 913-4470 Look for Mariel

Experienced Dialysis Nurse
Bring Resume Picture
@ Bonaventure Plaza AUX II
Ortigas, Greenhills, S.J.
Tel. 723-1052 Look 4 Dang

★ ADMIN STAFF (20) 9134470 0917-5033825 Ms. POWERS

HRD Staff 3617687 Mika

HRD STAFF 9134470 GRECO

MEDTECH & NURSE W/ LICENSE BAGBAGUIN FAMILY HOSP. CAL. CITY T 983-5363

Office Staff 18-45yrs old w or w/o exp 4370152 Shie

Part Time Teachers/Lecturers English Grammar, Reading, Public Speaking, Business Writing with Exp., of Good Calibre to teach in Sta. Rosa, Laguna Fax / Email Resume ASAP: (049) 541-0587 belair_english@yahoo.com

SALES AGENTS BIG BONUS + COMM BRING RESUME NBI AT RM 2623 CITYLAND SHAW BLVD

•Urgent Ofc Personnel 14-45 w/ w/o exp 9134470 Zeny

OFC STAFF 9134470 GOLDY

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
233 BUENDIA SHOPPING PLAZA; #602 JP RIZAL ST.,MAKATI CITY; #15 GEN. SANTOS AVE., LOWER BICUTAN, TAGUIG; REAL ST. ALMANZA UNO LAS PINAS CITY will hold an Auction Sale on JuLY 27, 2002 at 9:00A.M. Including all items pawned up to February 2001

Say Pawnshop, All Exp'd Items 7/27/02,#776-5140 Lanuza Sons

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BROKERS/AGENTS
Ubis OC (PO Box 1604 MCPO 1255 Mkti City)

CAP EDUC PLAN
Monet 2628373 • 09174037776

•Travel N Earn From Home•
Arlene 8531008 (0917)8901851

Free Snax & Seminar 09207976187

★"KAYA MONG MAGING MILLIONAIRE"...Attend business opportunity seminar 4 FREE 9204604•0919-8457226

Globe 266.50/Smart 266.50 7459361

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
Needs People To Train
• Tel # 535 0094 •

HIRING
SALES ENGINEER/ ARCHITECT
Roofing Materials
M/F below 30 years
MESSENGER
own motor 726-9527

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Sales Commis'ns 364-7559

Train For Success
0917-8371152

Travel & Earn From Home 6870963 / 0917-5319792

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of PABLO B. BANDILLA, SR. executed an extrajudicial settlement for TCT No. 181267 Antipolo on 19 July 2002 as per Doc. 571 Page 84 Book I, Series 2002 of Not. Pub. Maridel Tacardon of Makati City.
(PDI-July 20, 27 & Aug. 3, 2002)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PENSION ACCOUNT OF RUDY D. VILLAMIL HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 322; PAGE NO. 31; BOOK NO. 151; SERIES OF 2002 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ESTEBAN KAMPITAN OF QUEZON CITY
PDI-July 5, 12 & 20, 2002

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh. St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted

---

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Philippine Ports Authority* invites interested bidders to submit Application for Eligibility and subsequently to Bid, for the:

A. Name of Project : **PROPOSED EXTENSION OF R.C. WHARF PORT OF PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN**

B. Scope of Work :
1. Extension of R.C. Wharf (2,301 sq.m.)
2. Fendering System (24 sets)
3. Mooring System (12 sets)
4. Lighting Tower (1 unit)

C. Equipment Requirements

Major Equipment (Owned)

1	unit	Crane barge (319 GWT) with 50T crane
1	unit	Drawler crane (30 T capacity)
1	unit	Drop hammer (2T)
1	unit	Diesel Hammer (13,500 kg-m., energy at one blow)

Minor Equipment (Owned or Leased)

2	units	Concrete Mixer (1-bagger)
2	units	Concrete Vibrator (3 Hp)
1	unit	Air compressor (250 cfm)
1	unit	Jack Hammer
1	unit	Welding Machine (400 Amp.)
2	units	Cutting outfit

D. Project Duration : 400 Calendar days

E. Budget for the Contract : Ph 66,684,427.26
Sources of Funding : PPA Corporate Fund

F. Required PCAB Registration And Classification : Large B - Ports and Harbor/Offshore Engineering

G. Experience:
Similar in nature and complexity with at least 50% of the required quantity for major operations of work as indicated in Form IX, page 2 of 2 of the Eligibility Statement Form.

H. Cost of Eligibility Statement Form : P500.00
Place of Issuance : BAC Secretariat
Room 305, Marsman Building
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila

I. Deadline for Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Statement Form : **August 5, 2002**

J. Time and date of **Pre-bid Conference**, as well as the submission and **opening of bids** shall be indicated in the **Notice of Eligibility**.

Only contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) with valid and existing Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms. The forms are available at the BAC Secretariat, Room 305, Marsman Building, South Harbor, Manila, beginning on the first day of publication of this advertisement. Interested applicants are required to bring a letter of intent and original copy of Contractor's valid PCAB License for verification/authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of Ph 5,000.00.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

BAC Secretariat : Tel. Nos. 527-4735
527-8356 loc. 316
PPA website : www.ppa.gov.ph
E-mail address : rdcenas@ppa.com.ph
mmelicor@ppa.com.ph

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO G. CUSI**
General Manager

(PDI - July 20 & 28, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX, CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY
July 18, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

FOR LEASE OF SWADCAP FACILITY

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**, a national government agency, through its **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)**, is inviting interested parties and/or bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **LEASE TO OPERATE of the Social Welfare and Development Center for Asia and the Pacific (SWADCAP)**, a facility for training, conferences and other capability building activities located at Western Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The SWADCAP building has a ground floor area of 1,300.50 square meters (0.13 ha.) and a second floor area totalling to 958.50 square meters (0.0958 ha.). It has an approximately total land area of three (3) hectares.

The Center has a total of forty (40) lodging rooms: twenty (20) at the Second Floor and the remaining half at the ground floor with one (1) room which can be used as office. In a three-in-a-room arrangement, it can house a total of one hundred twenty (120) occupants while in a four-in-a-room arrangement; a total of one hundred sixty (160) occupants can be accommodated. Each room has three (3) beds, one (1) refrigerator, one (1) television unit and one (1) air conditioning unit.

The present facilities are a plenary hall, two (2) conference rooms, meeting/workshop rooms, library, office, reproduction room, stock rooms, kitchen and pergola/dining room.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the complete set of bidding documents, upon presentation of a letter of intent, from, **July 22 to 30, 2002** from Ms. Maricris Jacinto, BAC Secretariat, Property and Supply Division, Second Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with Telephone Nos. (632) 931-8161, (632) 931-8101 to 07 local 125, and Fax No. (632) 951-7116.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 30, 2002** at **2:00 PM** to be held at the Administrative Conference Room, Second Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

Sealed application for eligibility and bid proposal, together with the bid security, must be delivered to the BAC Secretariat on or before **2:00 PM of August 7, 2002.** Thereafter, eligibility and bid envelopes will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative(s) who choose to attend. Opening of bids will be held at the Administrative Conference Room, Second Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Late bid proposals/quotations will not be accepted.

DSWD hereby reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson,
Bids and Awards Commitee

(PDI -- July 20 & 27, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR
THE AVAILMENT FROM THE UNIVERSAL
CHARGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SHARE/
CHARGE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHED AREAS

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION ERC Case No. 2002-194
Petitioner.
x--x

ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9136, petitioner National Power Corporation (NPC) filed on **May 7, 2002** a "Petition" docketed as ERC Case No. 2002-194 praying that the proposed share from the Universal Charge for the environmental charge of P0.0025/kWh or a total of P119,488,847.59 be approved for withdrawal from the Special Trust Fund managed by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) for the rehabilitation and management of watershed areas.

Finding the said petition sufficient in form and substance with the required fees having been paid, the same is hereby set for hearing on **August 5, 2002** at nine o'clock (9:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The petitioner is directed to publish, at its own expense, the attached Notice of Public Hearing at least twice (2) for two (2) successive weeks in two (2) newspapers of nationwide circulation in the country, the last date of publication to be made not later than two (2) weeks before the scheduled date of initial hearing.

Let copies of this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Commission on Audit (COA), the Committees on Energy of both Houses of Congress, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the (PSALM) who are hereby requested to have their respective duly authorized representatives present at the aforesaid initial hearing.

The evidence on the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing, consisting of the affidavits of the Editors or Business Managers of the newspapers wherein the said Notice of Public Hearing would be published, together with the complete copies of the issues of the said newspapers, should be submitted to the Commission by the herein applicant on the date of the initial hearing.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, June 19, 2002.

(Sgd.) **FE B. BARIN**
Chairman

(Sgd.) **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **OLIVER B. BUTALID**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **CARLOS R. ALINDADA**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **LETICIA V. IBAY**
Commissioner

Copy furnished:

1. Atty. Rainer Butalid
   Atty. Comie P. Doromal
   Atty. Wilfredo J. Collado
   Atty. Henry P. Alog
   Counsels for Applicant
   Legal Department, National Power Corporation
   Diliman, Quezon City
2. National Power Corporation
   Attn.: Roland S. Quilala
   Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City
3. Office of the Solicitor General
   134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, City of Makati - 1229
4. Commission on Audit
   Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City - 0880
5. Senate Committee on Energy
   GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City - 1300
6. House Committee on Energy
   Batasan Hills, Quezon City - 1126
7. Department on Energy (DOE)
   PNOC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.
8. Power Sector Assets and
   Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM)
   SGV Building II, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR
THE AVAILMENT FROM THE UNIVERSAL
CHARGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SHARE/
CHARGE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHED AREAS

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION ERC Case No. 2002-194
Petitioner.
x--x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing on **May 7, 2002** by petitioner National Power Corporation (NPC) of a "Petition" docketed as ERC Case No. 2002-194 praying that the proposed share from the Universal Charge for the environmental charge of P0.0025/kWh or a total of P119,488,847.59 be approved for withdrawal from the Special Trust Fund managed by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM) for the rehabilitation and management of watershed areas.

The Commission has set the petition for hearing on **August 5, 2002** at nine o'clock (9:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said petition should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the petition and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the petition by the petitioner, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the petition and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the petition and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **FE B. BARIN**, Chairman, and the Honorables **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA** and **LETICIA V. IBAY**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 19th day of June 2002 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.**
Executive Director III

(PDI - July 20, 2002)

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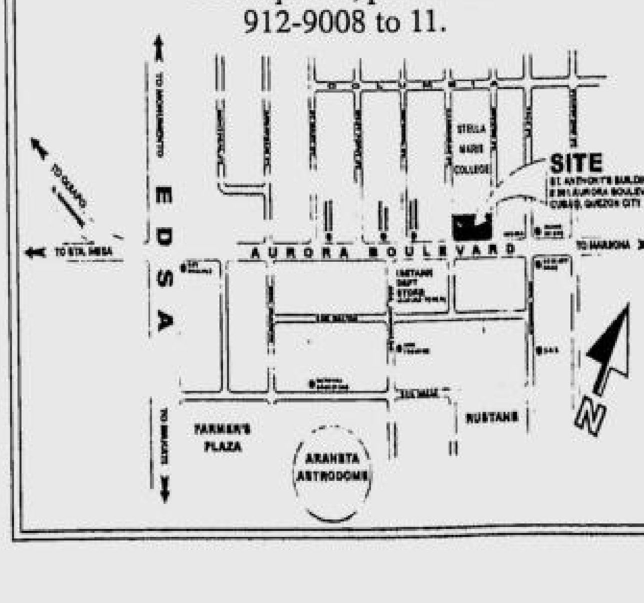

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NOELLE ANGELA A. HECHANOVA

(13 December 1978 - 18 July 2002)

Parents **Jose Mari J. Hechanova Jr.** and **Lennie Alegre Hechanova**
sisters **Nica** and **Maina**
her most special friend **Carl N. Tirador**
grandmothers **Rosario J. Hechanova** and **Leonarda G. Alegre**
aunts, uncles, and cousins
as well as other relatives and friends

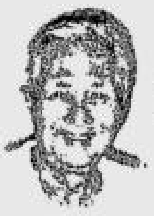
give eternal thanks
for having had the privilege of knowing Noelle for the past 23 years
and for having born witness to her life on earth, lived to the fullest.

We ask the Lord's grace
to allow Noelle's courage, strength, dedication and generosity
to live on through us.

Her body lies in state at the Capilla de San Francisco
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish Mortuary
McKinley Road, Makati City.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Message of Thanks



FELICISIMO CAPISTRANO ANDRADE

October 24, 1918 - July 12, 2002

Predeceased by his loving son **Fernando** (†); brother **Pio** (†) & his wife **Upeng** (†), brother **Pedro** (†) & his wife **Pilar**; sister **Angeles** (†) & her husband **Imin** (†); survived by his wife **Goying**; children **Jose** & **Necy**, **Toting** & **Glenda**, **Minda**, **Rey**, **Agoy** & **Baby**, **July** & **Luz**, **Disay** & **Darlo**, **Didith**, **Tessie** & **Jun**; sister **Elisa**, **Dulce** & **Nestor**, **Momoy** & **Flor**, **Natoy** & **Fe**; brother **Mike** and his wife **Naty**, sisters **Josefa**, **Librada**, **Rosalina** and **Angeles**; and 21 grandchildren.

We, the family, sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

BENJARDY "BEN" CABRERA

President, Barangay Treasurer's Association
Bacoor, Cavite
Treasurer, Southern Tagalog Region,
Philippine Jaycee Senate
Past National Treasurer,
Philippine Jaycee's

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on July 16, 2002 at the age of 56.

His beloved parents **Pascual** (†) and **Justina** (†); brothers **Cezar** and **Danilo**; sisters **Amadora** (†) and **Susan**; in-laws **Inoy** and **Dina**; nieces **Ivy** and **Anne**; nephew **Reiko**; and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence, Digman, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 21, 2002 at the Bacoor Memorial Gardens after the 2:30 PM Mass.

Our Beloved TATAY

Mr. Martin Acebron Adato

PRINCIPAL - MARINDUQUE NHS

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 17, 2002 at the age of 71.

His family, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 1-D), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Monday, July 22, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

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"My soul finds rest in God alone;
my salvation comes from Him;
He alone is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."

Atty. VENANCIO G. VENTIGAN

Of Umingan, Pangasinan and Quezon City

Who passed away on July 17, 2002 at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife Auring; children Venlee & Larry (†), Dindo, grandchildren Karla & Cholo, brothers and sisters Peter (†), Yne, Paz, Johnny, Violy, Vic, Perla & Benig; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Viewing Chapel 3, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Interment at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina. Interment date will be on Sunday, July 21, 2002 after the 9:00 AM Mass.

MAXIMO RAAGAS

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 18, 2002 at the age of 78.

His body lies in state at the Arlington East Chapel, Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced later.

"For God so loved
the world, that
He gave His only
begotten Son, that
whoever believes
in Him shall not
perish but have
everlasting life."
[John 3:16]

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Cebu Branch A S Fortuna Street Banilad Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2643; 346-2801
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
[illegible] Lahug Cebu City Tels 231 0721 231-3102
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext cor J Abad Santos Davao City. Tels (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
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Tels 712 5102 741 5125 741 5133, Fax No. 711-3084
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"I am the Resurrection and the Life,
he that believes in Me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live." (John 11:25)

MSGR. PETER CHIN KAITSAO, SVD

Shantung, China

passed away to join his Creator on 17July 2002 at Lourdes Hospital, Manila, at the age of 81, with 53 years of religious life.

His eternal remains lie in state at the
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine, 1420 Jose P. Laurel Street,
San Miguel, Manila from 17 to 20 July 2002.
They will be brought to Christ the King Mission Seminary,
Quezon City from 20 to 22 July 2002.

Concelebrated Mass will be held at the CKMS Chapel,
Quezon City, on Monday, 22 July 2002, at 3:00 PM.
Interment will follow.

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. CARLOS R. BUENVIAJE

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 18, 2002 at the age of 73.

His loving children **MIRIAM & BOB, JOBE & KIT**; grandchildren **CJ, MAISY & MATHEW**; brothers and sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capitol Memorial Chapels, Inc. at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on July 23, 2002 at Paz Crematorium, Quezon City, right after the 8:30 AM Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

LUCRECIA C. CRUZ

of Iligan City
on July 20, 2001

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Saint Michael Parish Church	Iligan City
Redemptorist Parish Church	Iligan City
Corpus Cristi Parish Church	Iligan City
San Lorenzo Ruiz Church	Iligan City

Her family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

In Loving Memory of

LORENA PALOMO Vda. de UY

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 18, 2002 at the age of 87.

Her children and their spouses, Cesar and Beatrice, Maria Lourdes and Antonio, Maria Theresa and Oscar, Jose Jr. and Lina, Maria Melinda, Ernesto and Milagros, and Maria Cecilia; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, in-laws, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Chapel, White Plains, Quezon City. Interment will be on Monday, July 22, 2002, at Loyola Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. mass at Christ the King Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, donation to Bukas Palad or Sinag Hospital Volunteers Foundation, Inc. will be greatly appreciated.

Atty. Narciso P. Bolisay

CPA-LAWYER

who joined his Creator on July 18, 2002 at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife **Consolation**; children **Myra**, **Roy** & **Jun**, his son- and daughters-in-law **Francis**, **Fely**, **Mely** & **Teresita**; grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Sapinoso, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 21, 2002 at Imus Cemetery, Imus, Cavite, at 3:00 p.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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BPI chosen best bank in RP

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI), one of the country's largest banks, was recently chosen as best emerging bank in the Philippines by Global Finance, a US-based financial publication.

According to Global Finance, BPI's focus on the relatively low-risk home lending market in the Philippines fits with conservative approach to risk that has made the bank a good choice among local banks. While the industry's overall consumer loan business contracted in 2001, BPI's portfolio increased by 4.5 percent.

The recent acquisition by BPI of the consumer loan portfolio of ABN-Amro Bank Inc., the local commercial bank unit of the Netherlands-based ABN-Amro Bank NV, should further strengthen BPI's lead in the consumer loan market. Earlier, BPI also acquired DBS Bank Philippines, the local unit of the Development Bank of Singapore (DBS), the largest bank in Southeast Asia. DBS Bank Philippines has been merged into BPI Family Bank.

Apart from consumer banking, BPI is a leader in corporate lending, trust and asset management and in bancassurance. BPI's strength in trust and asset management comes primarily from the combination of the trust businesses of BPI and Far East Bank and Trust Company, the top two trust institutions in the country, which merged in 2000.

As the country's first bancassurance firm, BPI also recently launched the new BPI/MS Insurance Corp., a merger of FGU Insurance Corp. and the FEB Mitui Marine Insurance Co. BPI/MS is now one of the top non-life insurance firms in the country. BPI decided to combine its FGU Insurance with FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance which it co-owned with Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Corp. in order to achieve greater economies of scale. The Tokyo-based Mitsui Sumitomo, BPI's insurance partner in the joint venture, is one of the largest insurance companies in the world.

BPI's net income of P5.25 billion in 2001, which was 72 percent higher than that achieved a year earlier, was the best performance in the Philippine banking industry thus far. Although its return on equity (ROE) dipped slightly to 10.6 percent from 13 percent in 2000, the bank's overall non-performing loan (NPL) ratio got better at 11.6 percent, an improvement from the 12.79 percent registered in 2000.

Early this year, The Asset and Asiamoney, both regional financial publications based in Hong Kong, also voted BPI as the best domestic commercial bank in the Philippines. In addition, the bank was chosen as the best-managed bank in the Philippines by the Hong Kong-based publication Finance Asia, and was awarded as the most outstanding participating financial institution in the lending program of the Development Bank of the Philippines in 2001.

GLOBE VALUES FORMATION WINNER

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers, during its 5th general membership meeting at Punta Baluarte, awarded Globe Telecom winner of the Pana Values Formation Award for April. The winning advertising campaign was dubbed 'Katrina'. Shown are (first row, from left) Pana board secretary Susie Achacoso-Cruz of Godiva Inc., Globe Telecom AVP-PR Jones Campos and Pana president Gigi Rodriguez of Citibank NA. Back row, from left, are Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, Pana directors Cergen Go of Swedish Match Philippines and Atoy Babasa of the Andresons Group.

ACERHOMES BRIDGE INAUGURATION

Acerhomes Development Corp. (ADC), a multinational real estate company, had recently inaugurated the Acerhomes Bridge. The bridge, which spans 101.5 meters, will connect ADC's pilot project Eastwood Greenview to MH del Pilar Avenue in Rodriguez, Rizal. Rizal Governor Nini Ynares (center), Rodriguez Town Mayor Ping Cuerpo (right), former Rizal Governor Ynares (left), Jacinto Ng Jr (2nd from left), Rachel Ng (3rd from left), and Gregory Lee (partly hidden) cut the ceremonial ribbon to formally open the bridge to the public. Eastwood Greenview is a 70-hectare masterplanned community 15 minutes away from Commonwealth Avenue. For details about Eastwood Greenview, call 532-2537.

Ambassador Lhuillier witnesses tests on new energy resource

AMBASSADOR Philippe Lhuillier, Philippine envoy to Italy, recently witnessed the testing of the Kobold Turbine prototype which aims to show the possibility of producing clean energy by harnessing the power of marine tidal currents.

Built during the Enermar project, the environment-friendly turbine prototype which is anchored in nearby Punta Faro in Messina, Italy, converts mechanical energy into electrical energy and is capable of exploiting the hydrodynamic strength of marine tidal currents.

The obtainable energy by the turbine is considerable, especially for areas with strong marine currents. During the performed tests, the turbine produced 24 kilowatts of electrical power with a minimal tidal current. Obviously, in sites where currents are stronger, it would be possible to obtain more energy.

The results obtained from the experiments have demonstrated that the Kobold prototype opens interesting possibilities in tidal current energy exploitation. The main advantage of harnessing tidal current energy against wind energy is that tidal currents are completely predictable since they depend on the periodic moon phases.

In an interview in Italian television, Lhuillier stated, "The Philippine archipelago is constituted by about 7,100 islands characterized by very strong currents and then it could be the optimal place to install and test the first turbine farm to produce a big amount of electrical energy with this type of system. I hope that very soon a cooperation project on the exploitation of tidal current energy between our countries could be started."

Joining the Ambassador during the tests were Lara Ricci, special correspondent of the European newspaper "Il sole 24 Ore" as well as a group from the national Italian television RAI.

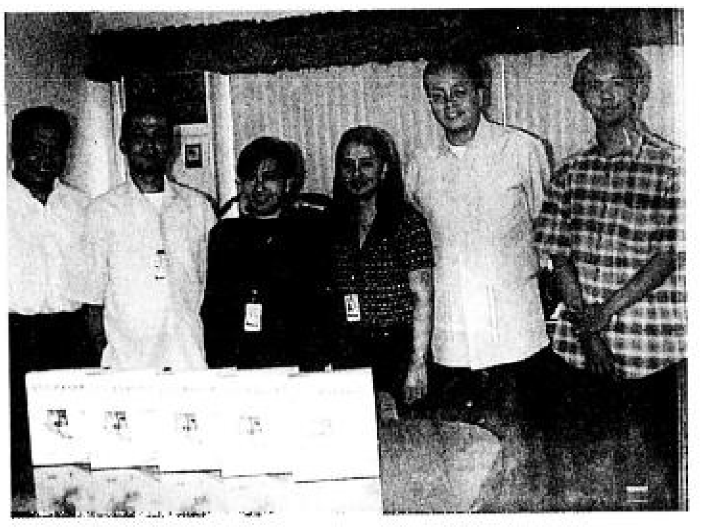
CONSUMERS AWARD

UGC-Tibayan Group chair Jesus V. Tibayan (in barong) accepts the golden statuette from the Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) being presented to him by TG Bank general manager Llovel Castillo, as Sam Martinez (left), TG Bank chair, and Rico Puerto, president, look on. TG Bank won the Most Outstanding Rural Bank trophy during the 13th CUP Awards Night.

PHILIPPINE
CANCER SOCIETY

15-YEAR TENURE ACKNOWLEDGED

Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera, outgoing president of the Philippine Cancer Society (PCS), receives from PCS chair Dr. Roberto M. Paterno, Ph.D., the board resolution of recognition and token of appreciation acknowledging her dedication and commitment to the work of the society during the 15 years of her presidency since 1987. The noted chest physician, primary health care and domiciliary care advocate spearheaded, among other projects, the setting up of the society's pioneering Hospice Home Care Program for cancer patients in 1991. The program inspired the establishment of 27 other Hospice groups in various parts of the country. The presentation was made during the PCS' 45th annual meeting of members held recently.



BRENT ADOPTS FINGERPRINT SCAN TECHNOLOGY

In keeping with its global standard as a fully accredited international school, Brent has adopted the use of Fingerprint Scanning Technology for its time and attendance monitoring needs for its employees at both its Pasig and South (Mamplasan) campuses. Supplied by EDS Innoventions, fingerprint scanning, also known as Biometric Technology, assures accurate and fraud-free time and attendance recording. Shown, from left, are Don Da Silva, exclusive distributor of EDS FingerID Systems, Edwin Acuna, Brent IT officer, Mildred Rimando, Brent chief finance officer, Amelia Padua, Brent personnel manager, engineer Manny Sia, EDS Innoventions CEO, and Aaron Cadaing, account executive.

BITS & Clips

Daet mayor 4-H awardee

DAET, Camarines Sur mayor Tito S. Sarion was recently given the 4-H Club Award by the Department of Agriculture at the DAP Center in Tagaytay City in celebration of the Club's Golden Jubilee celebration. The 4-H (which stands for Head, Heart, Hand, Health) is the youth volunteer arm of the DA in the implementation of rural development projects. Sarion entered the 4-H Club at age 15 in 1980. He was proclaimed Most Outstanding Volunteer Leader of the Philippines in 1986. Meanwhile, Sarion will attend the International Anti-Drug Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on July 20 upon the invitation of the USDare.

Safeguards to realty investing

REAL estate investors, property managers and other realty practitioners are invited to a forum on how to avoid common pitfalls in real estate investments to be conducted by the National Real Estate Association (913-4463) today, July 20, 1 to 6 p.m. at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. NREA president Dante V. Liban said main topics to be discussed are what and how to verify when buying real estate, sellers' and buyers' rights and remedies, contract documentation and registration, and tax aspects or real estate transactions. Resource person is lawyer Ruben B. Palacio, real estate consultant, appraiser, and broker. Call the NREA secretariat at 913-4463, 912-3492 for inquiries.

Activities at the Julius Maggi Kitchen

The Julius Maggi Kitchen will open its doors this July in bringing the specials for the rainy month to various cooking enthusiasts. Highlighting the activities will be a cooking demonstration on one-dish meals and a gardening session making use of pots. Come to the Julius Maggi Kitchen on July 20 and learn to prepare hearty and convenient one-dish meals. Cooking expert Joanne Limoanco of the Center for Culinary Arts will show you how to make delicious and nutritious one-dish meals that include the Asian Seafood Stew, Sausage and Rice Casserole, and Roast Chicken with 20 Cloves of Garlic. Meanwhile, if you're into gardening but your little space at home is your problem, there is such a thing called gardening in pots. Gardening in pots will even provide you with bountiful harvests of herbs and vegetables. Learn this exciting hobby from Arsenio Barcelona of Harbest Agri Business. These sessions start at 2 p.m. at the ground floor of the Nestle Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. For more information, call 726-9232 or 726-1016.

Product FILES

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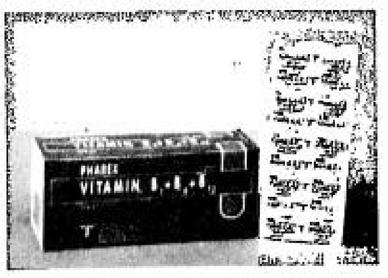

MICROSOFT APPOINTS MSI-DIGILAND

As part of its initiative to empower people through great software—anytime, anywhere, and on any device, Microsoft Philippines Inc. recently appointed MSI-Digiland (Phils.) Inc. as its distribution partner for its Microsoft full product packages and open licenses. Shown is Jimmy Go, president and CEO of MSI-Digiland Philippines addressing its resellers on the appointment during the Microsoft-MSI Digiland grand launch staged at Dusit Hotel Nikko. Makati.

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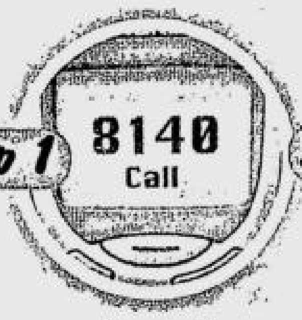

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Four stars on what makes a good actor

By Jocelyn Valle

WHAT is good acting? In an E! special feature, some Hollywood actors answered, "When I don't recognize myself on screen."

More personal view

Irish thespian Gabriel Byrne, on the other hand, had a more personal view: to give life to the role he's portraying, he lends his self to it, making the character special.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Will Smith, the rapper-actor revealed that while preparing for a role in the film version of the play, "Six Degrees of Separation," he found himself so immersed in his character that he would "take it home" with him. And that cost him his first marriage!

We've talked to four of our gifted and giving actors and these are their thoughts and takes on good acting and their craft in general:

Good acting, observes **Aga Muhlach**, is seen not only in one or several scenes in a film. "You look at it as a whole," he explains. "If in five scenes, *naka*-high-tech acting *ako*, that's not good. That's easy acting."

Characterization

He adds that the actor has to maintain his characterization from fade-in to fade-out. "And *'yung* audience *mo, lumabas ng sinehan na* entertained," he points out. "Good acting to me is not acting. You just go through your lines. *'Wag mo nang pahirapan. 'Wag mo nang i*-motivate. There's a story already. Let your audience react for you."

Aga shares that his approach to acting has changed dramatically since he was introduced in the '80s seminal youth flick, "Bagets." "*Dati*," he recalls, "*sa* crying scene, *'pag na*-perfect *ko*, feeling *ko ang galing-galing ko*. Now, as much as possible, *ayokong umiyak*.

"*Nakakatawa kapag may umiiyak sa sinehan. Minsan, pigilan mo ang iyak mo kasi masakit na 'yan. Tao na ang bibigay sa 'yo*. So, *importante 'yung* story, *'yung* build-up *bago dumating 'yung* pain. *Yumuko ka lang, huli mo na. 'Yun na 'yun*."

Aga cites "Bakit Labis Kitang Mahal" (his movie with Lea Salonga and Ariel Rivera) as a turning point. "*Doon ako gumawa ng pelikulang nagpakatotoo lang ako*," he intimates. "*Pinuso ko lang. Simple lang*, relaxed, *totoo lang*."

He avers that he never subscribed to any school of acting. "It's through my experience *lang*, watching Hollywood movies," he remarks about how he's able to improve his craft. "You don't see them cry, *pero bakit sapul na sapul ka*?"

And it's not only the classic acting showcases that interest Aga. He is likewise into popcorn movies like the "Lethal Weapon" franchise because, as a viewer, he's entertained.

Audience

The audience, after all, is on top of Aga's priorities when he's making a movie. He sometimes goes to the cinemas to check out how the public is reacting to his film.

He also works closely with his directors. In "Dahil May Isang Ikaw" (his first team-up with Regine Velasquez), Aga proudly shares that he was with director Joyce Bernal until post-production, to help in the editing and musical scoring. He gives everything to his movies.

And that's why Aga Muhlach is not just a star whose matinee-idol good looks launched hit movies, TV shows and advertising campaigns.

For **Joel Torre**, good acting is nothing but the truth. "If it's real to you, if you feel it's real at the moment, it's true," he points out.

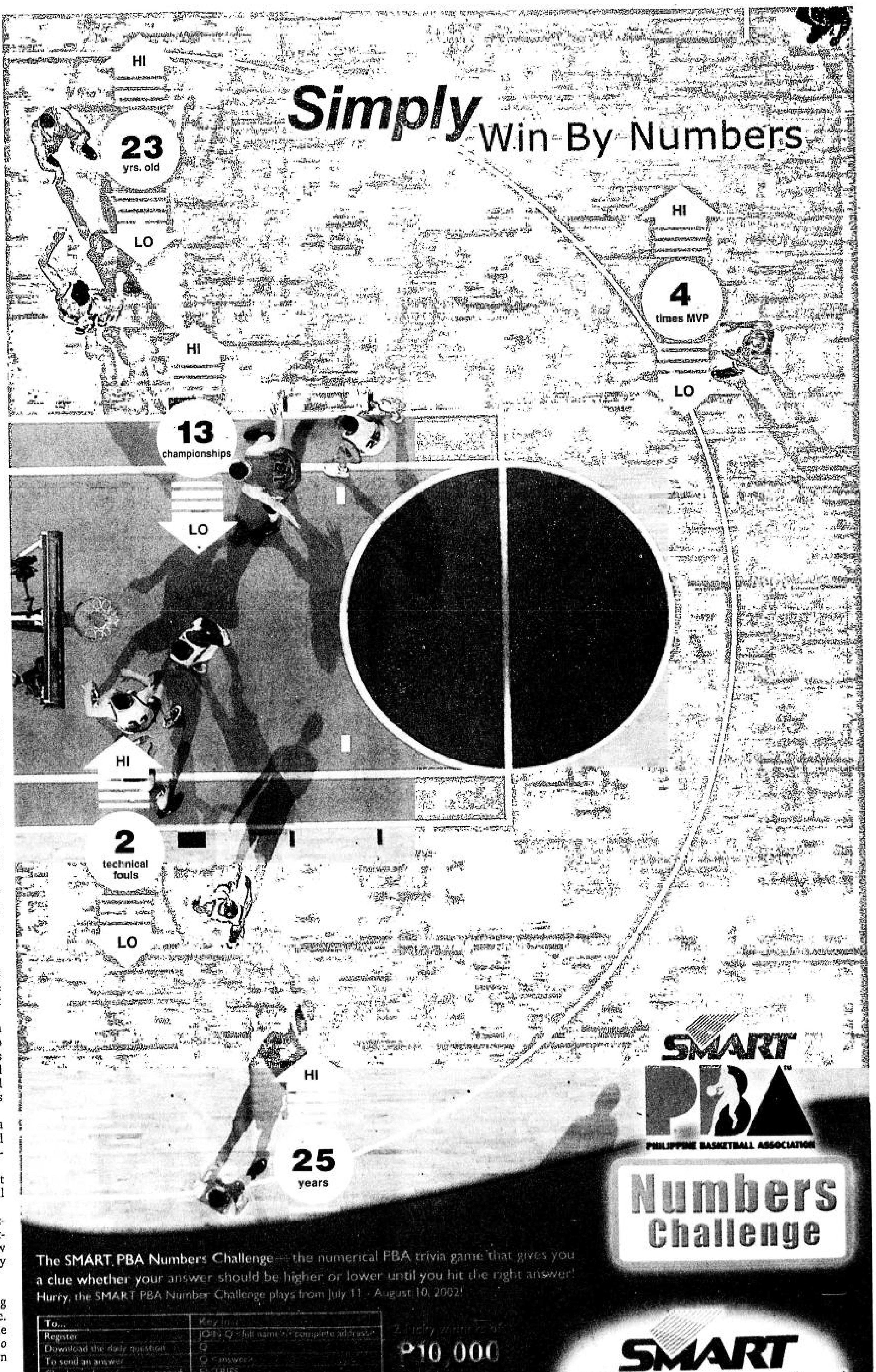
Though it's easy to discern truth in an actor's performance (like when you get affected), it's a mystery to non-practitioners how it's let out on screen or on stage (you really have to discover it yourself).

Acting process

We're therefore thankful to Joel for sharing his acting process: "First, relax. Study a role. Do your homework. Get a big picture of the whole movie and the scene you're doing. *Ano ang* demand *ng* scene? *Ano ang* obligation *mo*?

"Once you know what your obligation is, you find a choice—something like a person, a place that will make you fulfill that obligation. So, if you have to feel sad, *ang* possible choice *mo, namatay ang* grandparents *mo*. How to go to that choice approach? You do an

FOUR p C2



The SMART PBA Numbers Challenge—the numerical PBA trivia game that gives you a clue whether your answer should be higher or lower until you hit the right answer! Hurry, the SMART PBA Number Challenge plays from July 11 - August 10, 2002!

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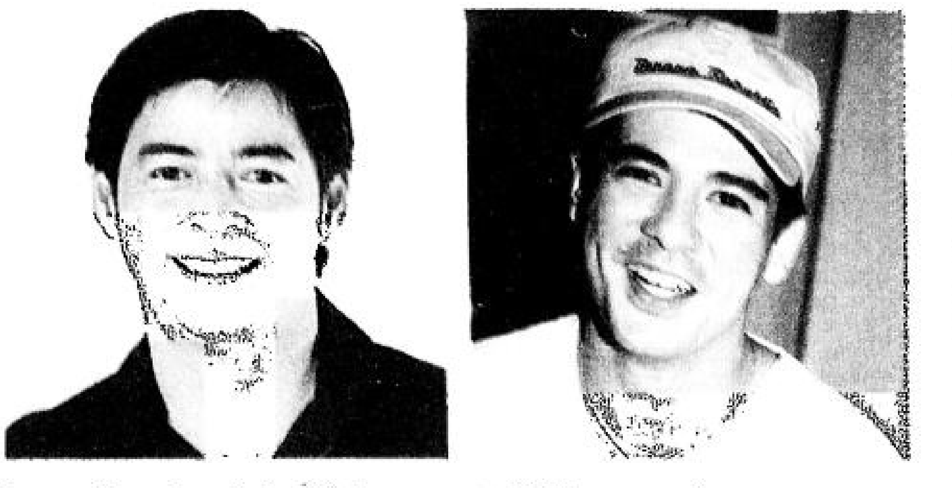
Four stars on what makes a good actor

From p. C1

affective memory, or it can be a meaningful object. *Marami 'yan.*"

Joel finds benefits from learning the different schools of acting. He tries to combine the helpful elements of each to come up with his own approach. "But I'm still searching," he stresses. "It's a work in progress."

Joel's love affair with acting began when he was still growing up in Bacolod. It grew as he started attending the drama classes facilitated by director Peque Gallaga. "We were trying this new approach," he recalls. "*Wala pa 'yung* 'Being' *dito.* We were experimenting on it. And then, wow! *Totoo 'yun, ha!*



TORRE AND MUHLACH. Learning from experience.

Craft

"We used to explore it on stage. It would just come out sometimes. It was hard. You wait for the moment to come out again. But through a process *na* 'Being" *nga, doon ko na*-realize that it's possible. So I tried to attain it through hard work, thinking that it could help me in my craft."

So, when he was tapped to do the male lead role in Gallaga's landmark film, "Oro, Plata, Mata," Joel was able to deliver a credible and empathetic performance. Now, many years and roles later, he feels that he's changed a lot.

"As a person, *'yung* maturity," he nods. "It helps you as an actor. *Marami ka nang na*-experience. Plus, what you get from workshops, and also what you learned from other people."

Aside from "Oro," the other films that are special to Joel are "Karnal," "Bayaning Third World" and "Batang Westwide."

How does it feel, watching yourself on the big screen? "You cringe," he replies, grinning. "*Parang* unreal *'yung* situation *na* you *see* yourself on the big screen. So you can't criticize your work. You're conscious of looking at yourself. *Nakakailang.*

"It takes a while to get used to it. *Nakikita ko kasi 'yung proseso* ko when I work. So when I see it, I tend to be more critical. You can't detach yourself unless you see it after a long time. You can't enjoy it while watching it."

Gimmicks

Ricky Davao also believes that good acting is truthful acting. "If there's truth to it, OK *na 'yun,*" he smiles. "You can resort to so many gimmicks, *mag*-tumbling *ka man d'yan*, but in the end, *kailangan 'yung* truth pa *rin ang lumabas.*

How? "If you're true to yourself," he replies. "In every role I do, I see to it *na* I'm truthful. I get energy from my co-actors, my director, and, of course, from the material. *Halu-halo.* There's no specific formula. There are so many different approaches in acting.

"*Pero minsan,* what works with other actors may not work to me. It's a case-to-case basis. When you wake up in the morning, what you ate; the traffic, *lahat 'yan, may* effect *sa* being *mo.*

"There's no exact science. *'Yung sa duktor, may* procedure; *sa artista, wala.* I used to study 'yung 'Method,' then 'Being.' It's good *na mapag-aralan mo rin para makita mo. Madami pero kung pagsama-samahin mo, ang* common denominator *pa rin,* truth."

At the same time, Ricky emphasizes that filmmaking is a group effort. "Editing will help you come up with a good performance," he explains. "Plus lighting, music and of course, you need a good director."

Different levels

Ronnie Lazaro, who, like Ricky is in the cast of the *teleserye* "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay," points out that good acting is seen from different levels, depending on the type of viewer you are.

As an actor, he feels he's coming up with good work when he enjoys what he's doing and he's satisfied with his performance. Experience has helped him develop and mature as an actor, that's why he finds it easier now to tackle a role. "I've opened many doors by using different keys," he avers.

Ronnie shares that he has a "very questioning mind" that compels him to dig deeper into his roles. Sometimes, he confesses with a chuckle, he even checks out the character's daily horoscope. After understanding the character, Ronnie shares that he just lets his instinct rule as the camera rolls.

He credits Peque Gallaga for being a major part of his development as an actor. As a bored third year commerce student, Ronnie joined the glee club, which, in turn introduced him to other aspects of performing. In a cultural presentation, where Ronnie played an old man, Peque was in the audience.

Connection

The connection then led Ronnie to be a part of the director's first workshops in Bacolod, together with Joel Torre, whose commitment to the art likewise inspired Ronnie.

"Acting workshops won't teach you how to become a good actor, but how to be creative," he states, adding that his association with the Reach for Inner Self movement that studies man as he's made into the likeness and image of God has been a big help, too.

Ronnie finds the most joy in essaying religious characters (which he only got to do on stage), like Jesus Christ in "Martir sa Golgota," John the Baptist in a musical on his life and St. Francis of Assisi in an excerpt of a play. "Because you imbibe their goodness," he explains.

How has acting changed Ronnie? "A lot," he exclaims. "I've learned to understand people. I don't take emotion as just an emotion, it's become something more. I've gained a better understanding of life. And it has helped me find Ronnie Lazaro!"

Manay . . .

From p. C6

Contreras.

Hard part

Now came the hard part: raising money for the construction. "We held fund-raising shows. We wrote letters. We knocked on doors. We called on the phone. We visited offices of business leaders. It was difficult to ask for money, but we did it," Ms De Venecia recalls.

The big break came after Speaker de Venecia decided to allocate part of his Countrywide Development Fund (CDF) to the cause.

After the seven-building center had become fully operational, she set her sights on constructing 15 mini-Havens nationwide, to help the disadvantaged women in the countryside.

New cause

Ms De Venecia's return as CSFI president in the Twelfth Congress focused on a new cause—The Haven for Children.

It is set to rise on a prime 1.1 hectare lot in Muntinlupa City. The center's goal is to rehabilitate street children so that they can return to mainstream society as functioning adults.

Once again, the gears to raise funds have been set into motion—from the very successful Kabuhayan 2002 fair at Megamall last March where the congressional ladies sold wares from their provinces, to the First Speaker's Cup held last May 9 that raised over a million pesos.

The best use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts even life itself!

* * *

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ALBUM REVIEWS

3LW and Vanessa Carlton sing about love and girl power

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

3LW
3 LW
Sony Music

YOUNG, adventurous, angst-filled and sweet, 3LW sing about girl power, sex and the travails of being a teenager. They can harmonize and successfully mix R & B and pop with funky beats.

"No More": lyrics are cool and trendy. The melody is catchy and you can't get it out of your head after you hear it. Gen(eration)-Y can easily relate to it and might just make it their anthem/theme song.

Other priorities

"Is You Feeling Me" warns guys not to get too close because these girls have other priorities. Nope, they won't sulk or mope if guys ignore or take them for granted. They are in full control of their lives! That's girl power for you!

"Playas Gon' Play" sums up the lame excuses guys come up when they're caught red-handed. Don't listen to this song if you love being a doormat-girlfriend because it might remind you to wise up and listen to your instincts.

"I'm Gonna Make You Miss Me" tells girls not to be martyrs. It's like eavesdropping in on three girls having a serious talk and letting a no-good boyfriend go.

Innocence

"Not This Time" is about innocence and losing it, about growing up after love and heartbreak. Finally, a song that tells us not to wallow in pain and sorrow!

Ironically, "Curious" has bland lyrics but good guitar riffs.

You'll like this album if you're not expecting serious and perfect lyrics, but the usual stuff about what teens go through. Harmonizing is not a problem and they can sing without being nasal.

Vanessa Carlton
Be Not Nobody
MCA Universal

This album is a must-have. It's pop-rock but it's kind to your eardrums. It's not noise but tunes filled with inspiration and enthusiasm.

"Ordinary Day" is about seeing beauty in everything. It indirectly inspires the listener to appreciate the small things in life, because big things can come in small packages.

CARLTON. Old soul.

"Unsung" is about being different but still being accepted by the people who love and understand you the most. It's also about being true and honest to yourself.

Staying connected

"A Thousand Miles" is about being away from someone you love but still staying connected by not losing the flame of love that's burning in lovers' hearts.

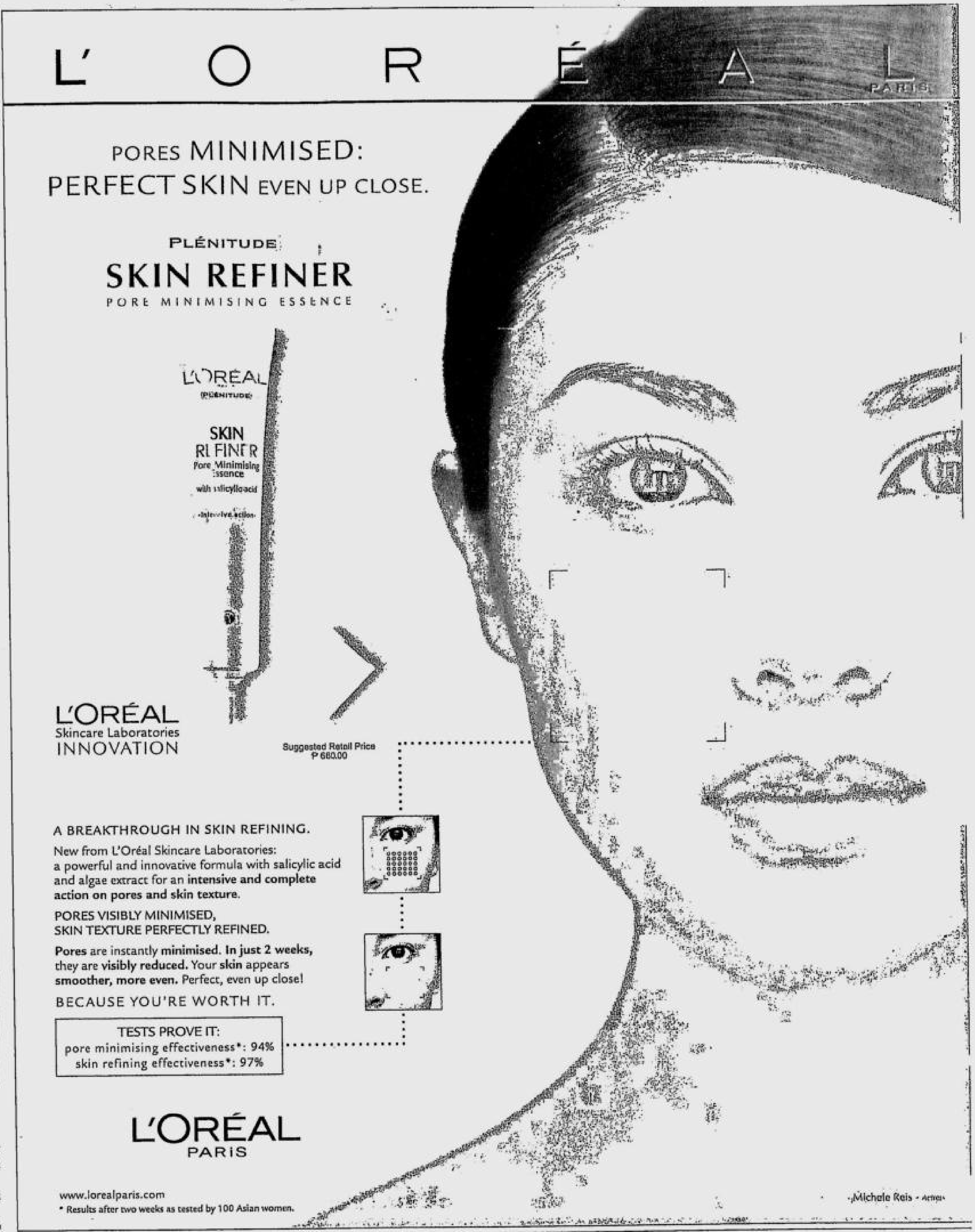
"Pretty Baby" is a cool song. It's about being there when people need you the most. Everyone needs somebody to care for him or her.

"Rinse" is about dreaming and holding on when things get tough.

"Sway" is about loving someone who doesn't love you anymore. Vanessa is talking to the present girlfriend of her ex-boyfriend. Nope, Vanessa is not sour-grapeing or being bitter about her loss. She simply watches her world disappear and crumble.

"Prince" is honest and full of mush. It's about letting go, about fear and "dying a little" because you want to make someone happy, even if it spells grief and pain for you. It's about acceptance and understanding.

Listening to these songs gives you the impression that Vanessa is an old soul. Her lyrics are full of wisdom, even if she's still young.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Michele Reis - Actress

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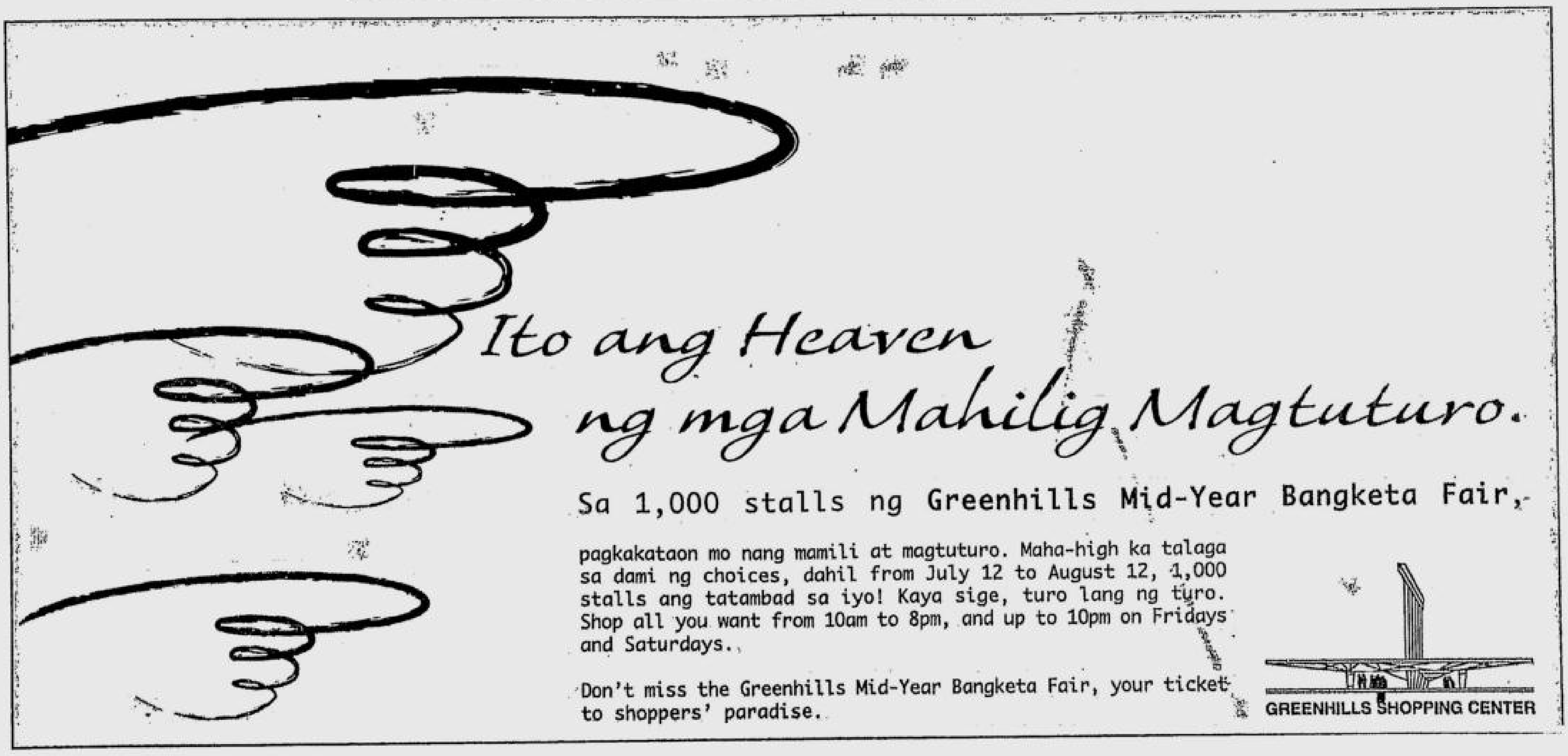
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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

Rivermaya wins three major MTV awards

By Edmund L. Sicam

RIVERMAYA had three new members join them last year, and this year, they've won three awards at the MTV Pilipinas 2002 Awards: Best Video for "Umaaraw, Umuulan;" Best Group; and Best Director (Lyle Sacris). The group will represent the Philippines in the MTV Southeast Asia Video Awards. Says Mike Elgar excitedly, "*Hindi lang isa, tatlo!!!! Feeling ko tatlo dahil tatlo ang bagong* members." So how do the new members feel, winning these awards as first-timers with a group like Rivermaya?

Acceptance

Kakoi Legaspi replies, "*Ako, yung saya ko di lang saya dahil nanalo kami ng* award. *Yung saya na rin ng dahil* sign *na kasi na na*-accept *kami ng tao na kaming lima na.*"

Says Japs Sergio, another new member, "*Sobrang tuwa, tapos, siyempre, sobrang* grateful. *Medyo mahirap paniwalaan.*" Mark Escueta, drummer, agrees: "*Sobrang saya at sobrang* thankful, *kasi*, first time *namin sumali sa* MTV awards, and we won—three awards *pa.*"

Mark tells this amusing story: "I wanted to light a candle for good luck in the church at Forbes. *E, ang dami palang* saints *doon na magkakatabi, hindi ko alam kung sino ang pipiliin ko! Pinili ko si* San Lorenzo Ruiz . . . *dahil* OPM, *e. Baka hindi maintindihan ng ibang* saints *yung* song *namin. Ngayon, siya na yung* patron saint of OPM bands, in addition to his other duties!"

Rico Blanco, considered the driving force of the band, was touched: "It hit me (that we won) the next day, early morning. My sister forwarded a text from our maids that they were really happy. I thought of all the other people who derived happiness from us winning the award, and that made it really special for me."

New members

How did the new members feel, joining an established band like Rivermaya? Michael narrates, "I was hesitant, because *grabe yung* pressure. As a fan, it's hard to accept new members *kapag okay naman yung* past. So, *hindi ko alam kung anong mangyayari pagpasok ko.* But when I joined, okay *naman.*"

Japs agrees: "*Pag tumugtog ka* for Rivermaya, *hindi siya basta* another band. So *yung* adjustment *para sa akin, medyo matagal. Hindi lang* band *yung* new *sa akin, maski na yung* instrument. *Nag*-start *ako mag*-bass, *pero* first love *ko*, drums. *Yung unang* adjustment *ko yung* playing *na nakatayo, kasi sanay ako siyempre na nakaupo, kasi* drummer.

Mike just fell into the band—"Ako, I was clueless when I joined the band. *Hindi ko alam* what to expect. When I met Rico *sa isang* club, I just said to him, hey, why don't we jam one of these days? One day, he texted me, *o*, jam *tayo.* I didn't know he was recruiting new members.

"When they picked me, I got shocked. I never thought—I came from a background of playing the guitar just for the fun of it, but although the Rivermaya's still for the fun of it, there's a big production behind it, but I didn't have a hard time getting used to it, I did have an adjustment period, especially when school came in."

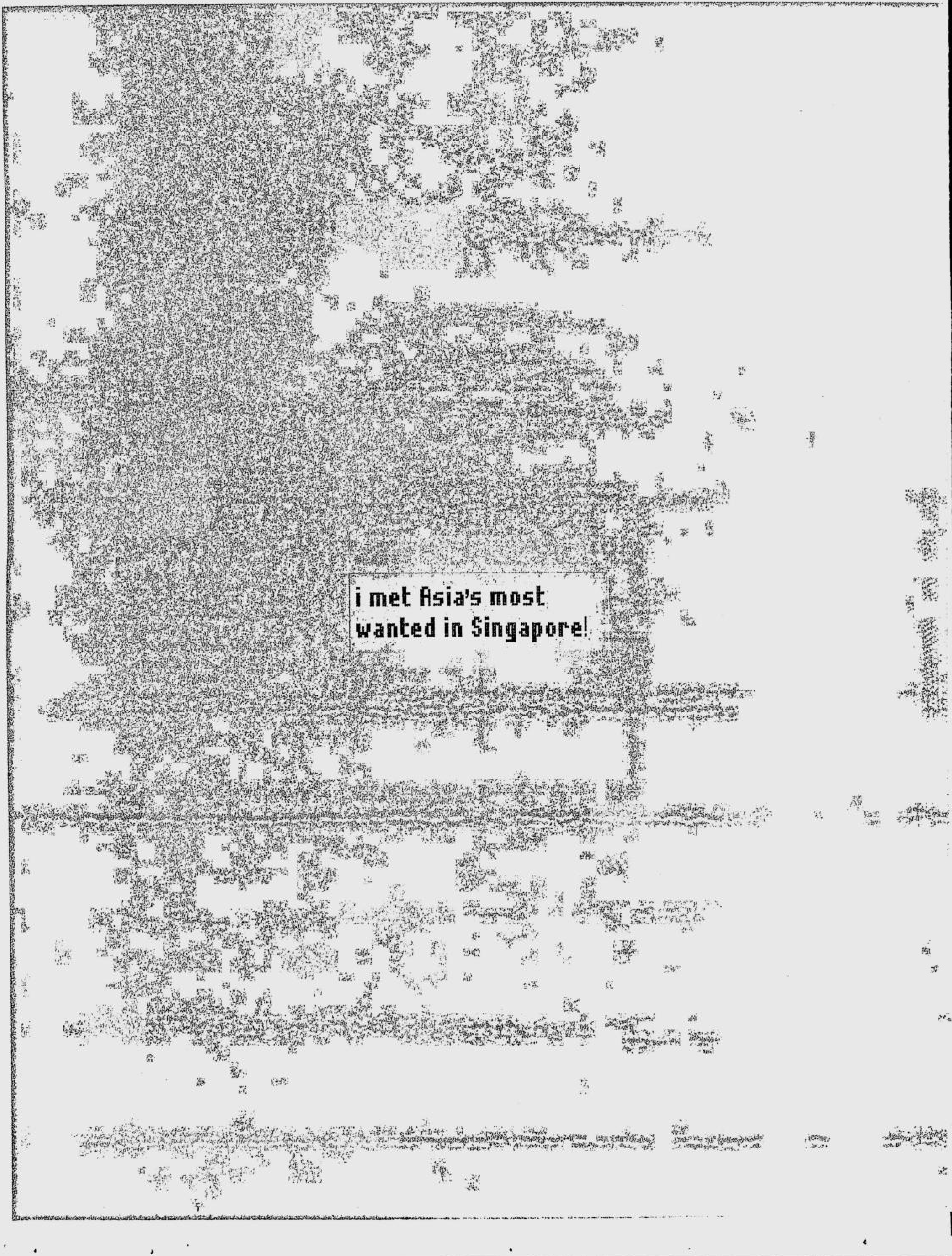
Amusing stories

The new members narrate amusing stories after they joined the band. Japs: "*Ang* weird *nga minsan, nasa* Glorietta *ako, may kumakanta sa akin ng* 'Gising Na' . . . *parang hindi namin* single *yun. Nagulat ako,* usually *nangyayari lang sa amin yun pag kasama namin si* Rico . . . first time *mangyari na ako lang mag-isa.*" Adds Mike, "*Mas* weird pa—*nasa* Galleria *ako, tapos biglang may kumakanta sa akin ng* 'Kisapmata.' *Di pa naman ako* part *nun, di ba?* Weird. *Pero* okay *lang, nakakatuwa.* At least *sa mata ng mga tao, kami na talaga yung* original."

Does Kakoi get sung to as well? "*Oo, pero* not so much. *Sa* school *minsan may sumisigaw, pero more pang-kanchaw lang.* They scream, 'Rivermayaaaa!!!!' *Ako, deadma lang.*"

Rivermaya may have three new members now, but the music and style stay the same—except now, their music is multi-awarded. Not bad at all!

GARY V (left) and Regine Velasquez with, from left, Rivermaya's Mike Elgar, Japs Sergio, Mark Escueta, Rico Blanco and Kakoi Legaspi.



Sadist and masochists ‘celebrate’ ‘Probe Team’s’ 15th year

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN most TV shows celebrate an anniversary, they throw a party or produce a special. True to its reputation as a different kind of television program, "The Probe Team" recently marked its 15th year on the tube by subjecting its six on-camera reporters to three days of physical torture and psychological mayhem.

Harrowing story

It's a wonder that Cheche Lazaro and her team were able to live to tell their harrowing story!

Yes, we're exaggerating—but only a little. As we watched the two "Probe" shows that detailed the punishment they received, we wondered why the hosts had agreed to subject themselves to the ordeal in the first place.

It must have sounded like a good idea when they first brainstormed it: Hey, guys, why don't we celebrate our 15th in a really different way by going on a "Survivor-type" test of physical stamina and psychological gutsiness on an island for two or three days, without food or water? It'll be a fun adventure, and it'll make us really bond as a team!

Yeah, right.

Daunting introduction

Somebody took the survival element of the challenge much too seriously. When the group of six started their survival course off Samal Island, they were ordered to *jump* off their helicopter, into the sea below. What a daunting introduction to their "fun" adventure!

That early, they should have realized that this wasn't going to be a picnic.

Other tests of endurance followed, each one more rigorous than the one before.

The two teams of three *really* started to complain when they had to endure a night of bitter cold in their wet clothes, with no food or water to salve the pain and frustration they were feeling.

Misery

This was when we started to suffer with them. Well, we really couldn't help it, because some of the "survivors" were behaving like petulant kids, loudly complaining about anything and everything! Misery does love company, and some of the "Probe" survivors made sure that their viewers suffered along with them.

True, we did learn more about them, who were the silent prodders, who were the "pity-me" ululators. But the complaints sometimes got so loud and livid that we felt we were being forced to learn much more than we wanted to!

Thank goodness, after the "Probe" "masochists" survived that bitterly cold and foodless first night, things got a bit easier. Sustenance was finally provided, and that gave them a most welcome physical and psychological boost. Their overall disposition improved, and even the crybabies became more agreeable and less surly.

But some succeeding tests were still difficult, like the order to rapel hundreds of feet down a cliff. Things got so un-fun that the two teams didn't even care who won anymore. All they wanted was to finish their ordeal alive.

Well, they did that. And they did bond better as a team, and discovered reserves of strength and determination that they never thought they had, etc., etc.

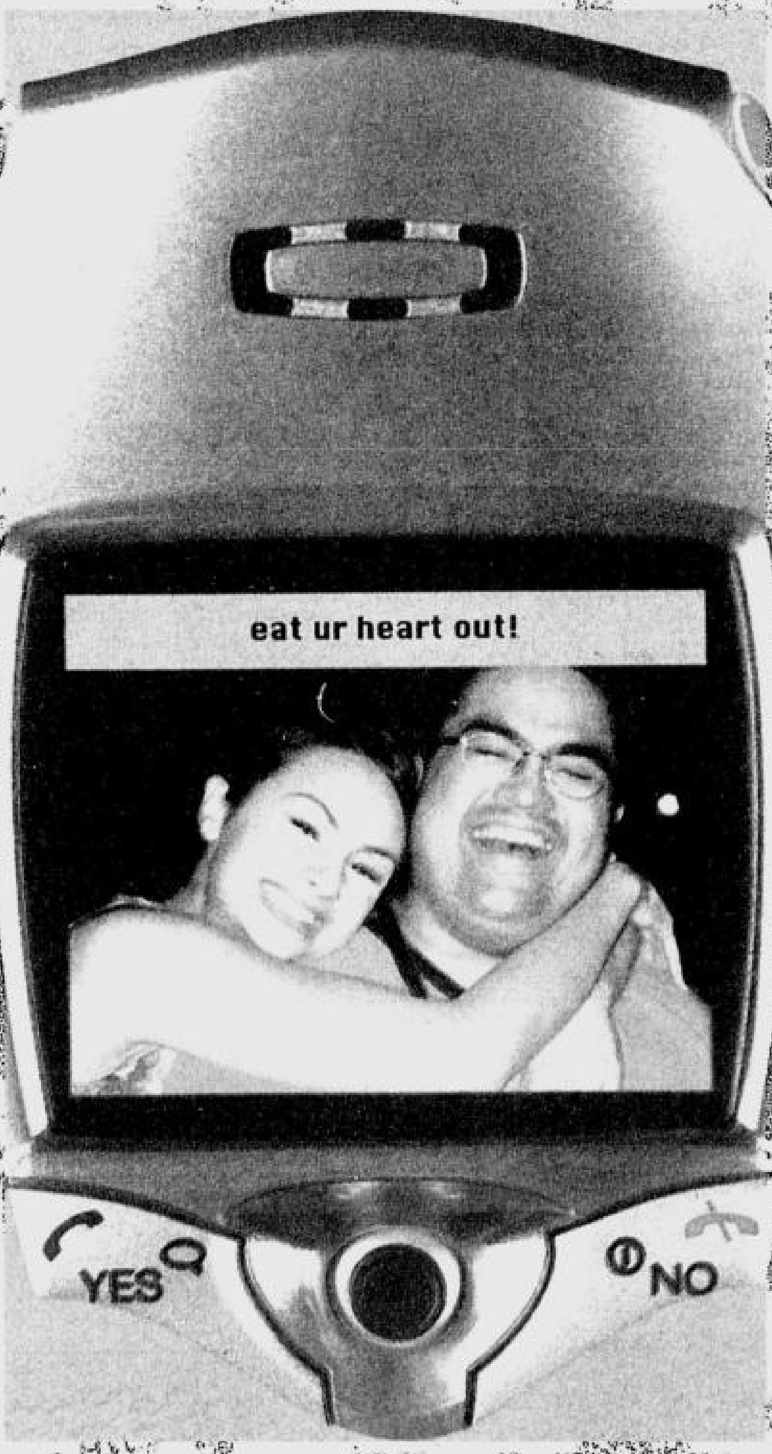
Extreme lengths

But the survival concept had been taken to extreme lengths that neither the teammates nor their viewers were prepared to handle.

So, on their 16th anniversary next year, we hope that the "Probe" people take things easy for a change and celebrate it with a nice, little, *easy* party in a chic swimming pool, with lots of food and drinks—and no well-meaning but "sadistic" survival trainors anywhere in sight!

‘PROBE TEAM.’ Smiles before the ordeal.

for real



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Thai blockbuster film aims for worldwide audience with Francis Ford Coppola's cuts

By Busaba Sivasomboon

BANGKOK, Thailand-"It is the story of sex, Shakespearean intrigue, battle, sex, heartbreaking characters . . . and sex," says Hollywood film director Francis Ford Coppola, describing a Thai epic that he's chopped down since it was also too long for international audiences.

Longtime friend

Coppola was in Thailand for 10 days to help longtime friend, Thai director Chatrichalerm Yukol, to shorten his 185-minute film "Suriyothai" to a 150-minute version for worldwide showing.

Released in Thailand last August, the film is the costliest and most successful ever made in the country. It has earned an all-time record ,600 million baht ($13.6 million).

It's a lavish costume drama based on the life and legend of Suriyothai, a 16th century queen, and a seductive rival. It weaves a story of palace intrigues, corruption and wars fought on elephant back, in the kingdom of Ayuthaya between 1491 and 1548.

Coppola told a press conference that he saw the movie in December last year and agreed to take part in the re-editing because "this is truly epic of great proportions, one audiences the world over will enjoy, if made more accessible by tweaking a little."

No stranger

Coppola himself is no stranger to long epic movies. One of his finest creations is the Vietnam War film "Apocalypse Now."

The new version of "Suriyothai" will be launched by Coppola's distribution company. He also will receive an executive producer credit.

The film will be shown in the Thai language with English subtitles which he helped rewrite. Coppola says he hopes it will prove a blockbuster abroad, especially in the United States where the Chinese-language movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" scored a hit.

Including the fee for re-editing, "Suriyothai" cost $15 million, making it one of the most expensive Asian films to date, Chatrichalerm said.

COPPOLA. Has made the film more accessible.

"I think I accomplished enough when I learned that many renowned directors such as Steven Spielberg and Coppola himself said they liked the movie," he said. *AP*

What viewers like and don't like about local TV newscasts

By Noelani Torre

WATCHING the news on TV is an everyday activity for many people. Still, this doesn't make their producers complacent—or so they tell us. According to them they continually strive to bring us all the news we want and need. Are they succeeding? Here's what some viewers have to say:

Daring

"I like it that local newscasts seem to be daring. I don't like some of the newscasters, who seem to be mad all the time. News-delivery should be *objective."—Philip Rose Radin, Imus, Cavite.*

Portions

"Mas okay sana kung may iba-ibang portions *ang mga* local newscasts, like national news, international, regional, school-related, sports, business, entertainment—*kahit* trivia. *May mga* portions *ang mga* newscasts *ngayon, pero maikli masyado. Ang dating parang nagi*-skim *lang sila. Sana i*-discuss *nila ang mga pinaka*- headlines.

"Hindi ko gusto na Manila-centric *masyado ang* local news, *na para bang wala nang ibang tao sa Pilipinas. Tsaka masyadong* hot *ang mga* newscasters *nila*. Cool down!"—*Carlos Joaquin Buenaventura, Tagaytay.*

Sensationalism

"I only like their experimentation with the genre. I dislike their sensationalism, dumb anchors, graphic content, and those annoying rhyming spiels *ala* Marc Logan in the ABS-CBN newscast."—*Pamela Joy Mariano, Mandaluyong.*

Traffic report

"One thing I like is the traffic report because really heavy traffic is one of Metro Manila's biggest problems. So it's a good attempt to help solve it.

"What I don't like is hearing news about the latest '*mangkukulam*,' '*magikero*,' etc. I know many Filipinos are fond of watching such features, but I don't think they should be considered as news. They should put up a show focusing on that subject if they really want to, but please, don't make it news."—*Robert Hernandez, Pasay City.*.

Negative issues

"I like the general delivery of the news because some have live remote patches and that helps viewers to know more about the current issues. I don't like it when they talk more about the negative issues—news about husbands and wives killing each other, rapes, etc. It isn't good for the kids who are watching."—*Dawn Dumas, Quezon City.*

Local news

"I like it that these newscasts present the local news before the foreign. Also that these newscasts usually have interview footage on some of the people involved in the issue. What I don't like is the way some reporters and anchorpersons 'dramatize' the news and try to act it out, instead of telling us how it is straight.

"I also don't appreciate those sensationalistic stories which obviously exploit the subjects, like when they feature a physically different person or a dog who pulls cars. People who watch the news want to be informed of the crucial, and not the controversial, issues in our country."—*Nellie Trinidad, Iloilo City.*

Great steaks at Morton's of Chicago

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, Canada—The best steaks I've tasted were in the United States. My very first encounter was when I was still an undergrad at the Hotel School in Cornell University.

Undisputed champion

A small restaurant in Ithaca, What's Your Beef, served the most delicious Roast Prime Rib of Beef. The source of the meat was the reputable Agriculture School of the University, where they would slaughter a healthy cow every week. In my own mini-competition, it was the undisputed champion.

From then on, I went on a search for something that would at least equal if not surpass it. This went on for many years, until I came across the version of The House Of Prime Rib in San Francisco. Today, it is a toss-up between the two.

But my search has not ended yet. I am still looking for a restaurant that will outdo those two. I have heard of the famous Peter Lugar Steaks of New York but have never had the pleasure of meeting them "in the flesh."

This continuous search has become a game. It keeps me alert for hints of discovery. One day, while driving through the streets of Vancouver and listening to the radio, I heard a spot about Morton's of Chicago, a steakhouse. Being biased in favor of American steaks, I asked about the place. I didn't get good comments, but the ones who gave them had never been there. There was hope.

Reservations

When my brother Bong, also a great fan of fine food and wine came over, I mentioned the presence of this chain to him. He had tried it somewhere in the States and said it was worth a visit. We made reservations that evening.

The place is a classy fine-dining restaurant with a superbly dressed service staff. I flipped when I saw the steaks at some tables and the broiler of the restaurant. We wasted no time in giving our orders.

We started with Broiled Sea Scallops wrapped in Bacon with Apricot Chutney. Good, but nothing earthshaking. For our salad, we improvised and ordered some spinach with Caesar Dressing on the side (Bong's idea). Also good but ordinary.

Bong ordered a medium rare cut of Roast Prime Rib and had it seared in the broiler. Stella, my sister, had the Broiled Rib Eye Steak with Pepper sauce on the side. Tessa had the Steak Diane. This is a Prime Grade filet mignon with sautéed mushrooms and demi glace mustard sauce.

All good

We shared some steamed giant asparagus and Potatoes Lyonnaise. I tried them and they were all good. But mine was the best. I had a medium baked Roast Prime Rib of Beef. It was about three inches thick, seven inches wide and rested in its own juices. This steak was so huge, every slice and bite I took filled my mouth. This was one of the finest steaks I have ever come across.

With that meal, we had a vintage Merlot and a Cabernet Sauvignon. Superb! We were too stuffed to have dessert but the steaks were sure worth the visit!

Morton's Steakhouse has many branches all over the US, and in Hong Kong and Singapore. The one in Vancouver is located on West Cordova st.

Happy eating!

Manay Gina's calling

HAVEN
RE-CARE FOR WOMEN

FROM left, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, CFSI president Gina de Venecia and Ms Claudine Zialcita at The Haven. Middle picture, The Haven for Children-Mandaluyong City, with Tessie Villarama, Speaker Joe De Venecia, Louie Locsin, Architect Gerry De Venecia, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Nora Lobregat, Trina Biazon, and Ruth Padilla. Photo taken during the groundbreaking rites. And Ms De Venecia and other congressional spouses at the Regional Center for Women in Ligao, Albay in Bicol.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

MANY people dream of doing good things, while others simply get on with it. One of the latter is Ms Gina De Venecia, president of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI) and host of the popular TV drama series "Pira-pirasong Pangrap."

In an interview, Ms De Venecia revealed why she is championing the cause of the abused: Everything started with her concern for battered women.

Dream

She saw her chance to fulfill her dream of putting up a halfway house for abused women, when her husband, Joe De Venecia, became the Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1992, and she concurrently became the head of CSFI.

But, achieving her goal wasn't easy. Naysayers said she was aiming to do the impossible. Never underestimate a determined woman!

Along with the men and women who comprised the CSFI of the Ninth Congress, she buckled down to work.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development identified a vacant 3.2 hectare government lot in Alabang, Muntinlupa City and donated it to CSFI. The plans for the buildings were made, also for free, by a young and compassionate architect, Gerry

MANAY/ p. C2

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 20 - JULY 26

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:00 Kakasa Ka ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	3:00 Value Vision 6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night *Gold* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *The Burbs*	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Women of . . . 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Paninindigan sa Plaza Miranda 7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *The Matrix* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Kylie Minogue* 11:00 Road Trip 11:30 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rankol All Times 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 E! Goes to War
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 DAR 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Greatest Fights 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fora Medica 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 NBI Files	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:00 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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Gere, Diaz and other popular stars in five new feature films

By Nestor U. Torre

BEST buddies Matt Damon and Ben Affleck have put up a movie company, Pearl Street Productions, and their first release has just opened in town.

Date

The film, "The Third Wheel," is about Stanley Milton, a decent guy who has waited two years to ask the girl of his dreams, Diana Evans, out on a date.

Stanley and his best friend Michael think up an elaborate scheme that includes an "unexpected" meeting that almost ends in disaster when Stanley stumbles over the lines he's rehearsed.

Despite this momentary glitch, Diana agrees to go out with Stanley. The evening turns out well-until Stanley's car hits a homeless man named Phil.

From that moment on, the romantic date becomes a comedy of errors that sorely tests the patience and fortitude of the principal characters involved.

Cameo appearance

Stanley is played by Luke Wilson, Diana by Denise Richards, Michael by Ben Affleck, Phil by Jay Lacopo, and Matt Damon makes a cameo appearance as Diana's ex-boyfriend Kevin.

For his part, Richard Gere topbills the erotic suspense-thriller "Unfaithful," the latest movie by Adrian Lyne, the maker of "Fatal Attraction."

At film's start, Gere's character is happily married to Diane Lane. But their "perfect" marriage is shattered when Diane falls for a charming Frenchman (Oliver Martinez).

Lyne's new film is a remake of the 1969 French production "La Femme Infidele" ("The Unfaithful Wife"). It "explores the details of deception and the body language of guilt."

Giant spiders

Next from "Independence Day" producers Dean Devlin and Roland Emmerich is "Eight Legged Freaks," a film about giant spiders. In the new comedy-thriller, a chemical spill causes hundreds of little spiders to mutate overnight to the size of cars, and even trucks!

It's up to mining engineer Chris McCormack (David Arquette) and Sheriff Sam Parker (Keri Wuhrer) to mobilize the townspeople to fight against the monsters.

In "Ghost Ship," a boat salvage crew working in a remote region of the Bering Sea discovers the eerie remains of a grand passenger liner thought to have been lost more than 40 years ago.

Horrific past

Once onboard, the crew must confront the ship's horrific past and fight for their lives. Starring Gabriel Byrne, Juliana Margulies and Ron Eldard.

In "The Sweetest Thing," Cameron Diaz plays Christina, a feisty young woman whose golden rule when it comes to dating is: stop searching for Mr. Right and focus on Mr. Right Now! That is, until she meets Peter (Thomas Jane). Unfortunately, he disappears the very next day.

Christina and her best friend Courtney (Christina Applegate) decide to look for him-and their road trip from hell begins.

Misadventures

After numerous wild and hilarious misadventures along the way, their search finally leads them to a surprising discovery-and the realization that love *is*, after all, the sweetest thing.

> In 'Ghost Ship,' a boat salvage crew working in a remote region of the Bering Sea discovers the eerie remains of a grand passenger liner thought to have been lost more than 40 years ago

"The film," says director Roger Kumble, "is a little bit spicy without trying to hurt anybody's feelings. It takes the romantic comedy

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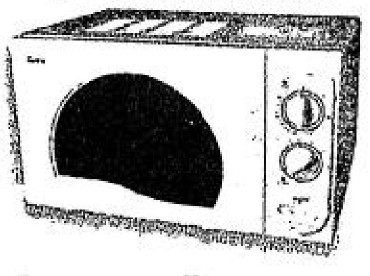

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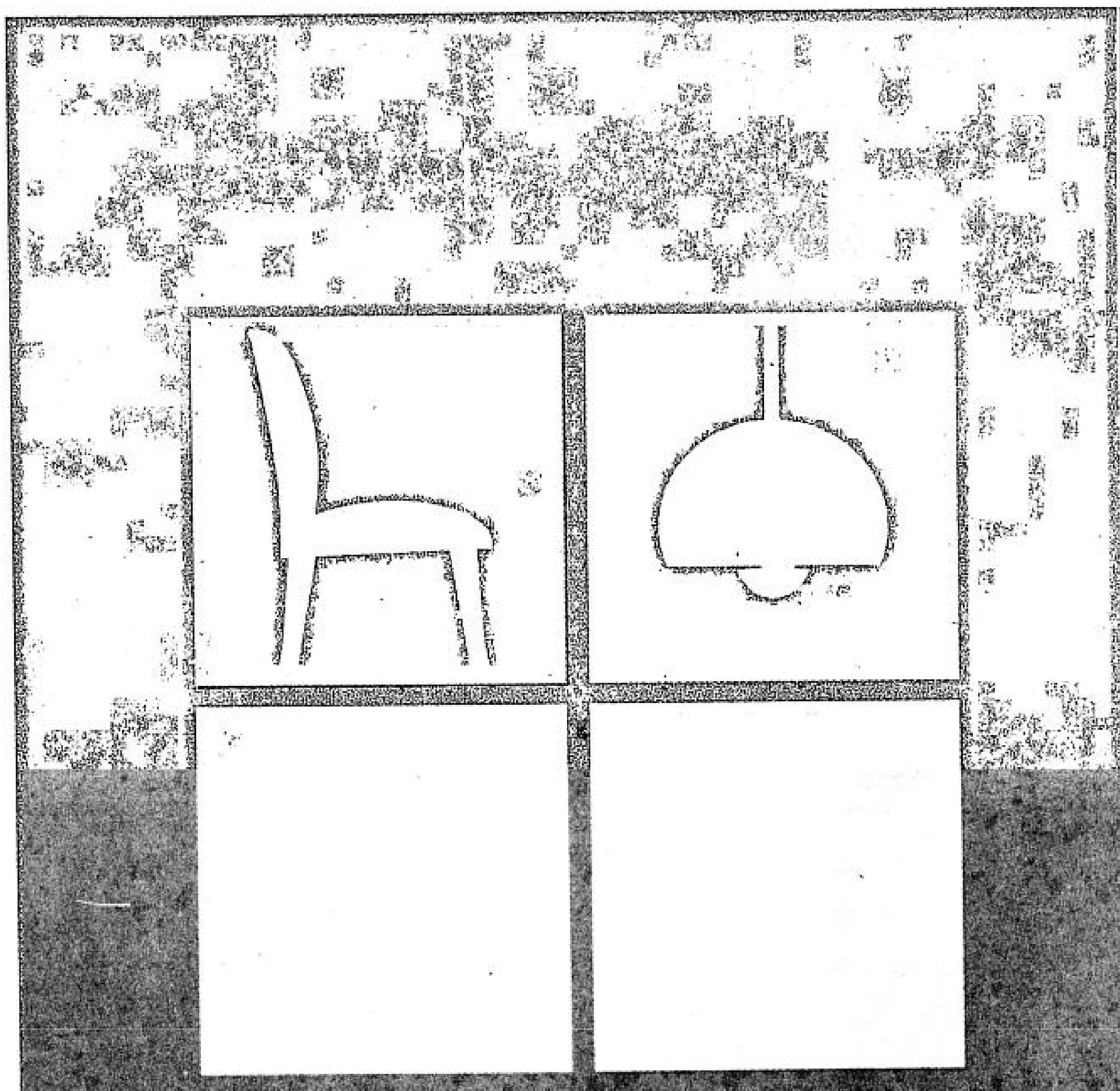

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OASIS BAND. More discreet.

Oasis bandmates are bad boys no longer

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—Advancing age and new-found domesticity can soothe even the most savage rock stars.

Take Oasis, the British band headed by alleged bad-boy siblings Noel and Liam Gallagher. Instead of getting drunk every night—and reading a version of events in the London tabloids the next day—its members are now more discreet.

Principal songwriter

"When you get into your 30s, like we are, you pick and choose your days to have a bender," said band leader Noel, 35, the group's guitarist and principal songwriter.

With language that would make Ozzy Osbourne wince, he complained in a recent interview with Reuters that his "body just cannot . . . handle it anymore," that "the hangovers become real . . . trials," and that "to get to the evening where you can finally go to bed, it's just a . . . nightmare." The liquor companies need not despair: on a debauchery scale of one to 10, he still rates the band a rabble-rousing six or seven. But the time when Oasis received a lifetime ban from Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific in 1997 for abusive behavior seems like a fond memory.

So, too, do the filial fisticuffs that punctuated the brothers' reign as kings of the British rock scene in the 1990s.

True love

Divorced from their wives since their last studio album came out in 2000, the Gallaghers have found true love—with each other and with new girlfriends—as their latest release, "Heathen Chemistry" hit the stores earlier this month.

It's a tricky time for the band. After selling 29 million albums worldwide, Oasis's star has dimmed. Its last studio release, "Standing on the Shoulder of Giants," was panned, and a subsequent live album was barely noticed. In America, where the masses have proved more resistant to the band's laddish charms, Oasis peaked with its second release, 1995's "(What's The Story) Morning Glory?" which sold 3.5 million copies.

"Heathen Chemistry," the band's fifth studio release, got off to a slow start in the United States, debuting at No. 23 with two thirds the first-week sales of "Giants," according to album sales tracker SoundScan. The band begins a three-week North American tour on Aug. 2 in Pompano Beach, Florida, with a second leg tentatively set for November.

Sibling rivalry

Oasis last played North America in 2001 on the wryly titled "Tour of Brotherly Love" with Atlanta's Black Crowes, another band fraught with sibling rivalry. Compared to, say, the Stateside jaunt of 1996, which was cut short when the Gallaghers got into a huge fight, the tour went well. Indeed, the Crowes subsequently broke up, while Oasis remains intact.

"We actually entered into that tour thinking, 'Well, we're a pretty dysfunctional family,'" Noel recalled. "And came back thinking, 'Actually we're . . . all right, man. We're pretty close, pretty tight.'"

In the new spirit of togetherness, the "Heathen Chemistry" sessions, which began before the 2001 tour, were more of a collaborative effort. For the first time, the band produced the album itself, all the better to share the credit—or blame.

Noel, who wrote all but one song on the band's previous albums, shared the spotlight on the new effort. Liam, 29, contributed three tracks, having made his Oasis songwriting debut with the inauspicious "Little James" on the last album.

Nine songs

He actually wrote nine songs. "But the other six were appalling," Noel said with an apparent straight face. "The less said about them the better, really." Rookie members, guitarist Gem Archer and bassist Andy Bell, contributed one tune each. Archer and Bell replaced founding members Paul "Bonehead" Arthurs and Paul "Guigsy" McGuigan, respectively, who left in 1999. The line-up is rounded out by drummer Alan White, who replaced Tony McCarroll in 1995.

Oasis is a nominal democracy, but Noel makes the final call and boasts, "I have to say I remain undefeated in the voting stakes." It was Liam who founded the band in 1991 in the brothers' native Manchester. He invited Noel to join, and Noel took over.

The band released its debut album, "Definitely Maybe," in 1994, billed as the fastest-selling debut in British history. The hits kept on coming, including such British chart singles as "Cigarettes & Alcohol," "Don't Look Back in Anger" and the first "Heathen Chemistry" single, "Hindu Times." Along the way, Oasis has copped a lot of flak for its Beatles-influenced sound, and Noel has now given up apologizing.

Gangster flick

"We just play rock 'n' roll music, and if people have got a problem with that, then fine. Go buy the Radiohead album." Noel sings lead on three "Heathen Chemistry" tracks: "Force of Nature" and "Little By Little," both originally recorded for the 2000 English gangster flick "Love, Honour & Obey," and "She Is Love," about his new love, Sara Macdonald.

Anyone looking for juice on the break-up of Noel's marriage to Meg Matthews or Liam's to actress Patsy Kensit is out of luck. Noel said the previous album covered that ground, and the new one has more universal applications.

He added the band is good for at least one more album, which will satisfy its contract, and who knows what will happen after that? With Internet piracy sending the industry into a tailspin, David Bowie has declared that the concept of copyright will be dead in a few years. For the present, Noel is happy to look back, without too much anger, on a good run.

"For what it's worth—and I don't know what this statement is worth—but we did define the '90s in England," he says. "We just told it like it was. We . . . came, saw, . . . snorted, drank, . . . smoked, fell out, went back to bed, got up and done it all the next day, y'know?" *Reuters*

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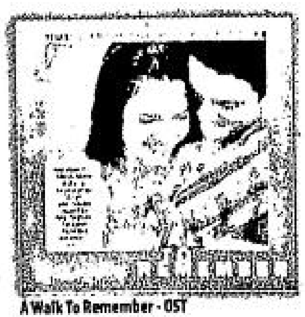
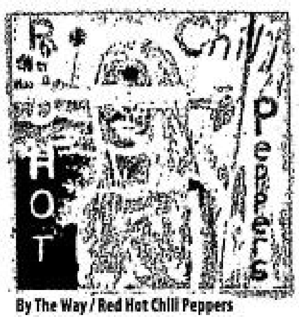


A Walk To Remember - OST
Only Hope by Mandy Moore
Keyword: onlyhope



By The Way / Red Hot Chili Peppers
By The Way
Keyword: bytheway

Oh Yeah (Ultimate Aerosmith Hits) / Aerosmith
Girls Of Summer
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Norah Jones
9 Nellyville
Nelly
10 Eminem Show
Eminem
11 Heathen Chemistry
Oasis
keyword: stopcrying
12 O Yeah (Ultimate Aerosmith Hits)
Aerosmith
keyword: girlsofsummer
13 We Invented The Remix
P Diddy & Bad Boy
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Diana Krall
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Regine Velasquez
16 Best Of Me
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20 Ashanti
Ashanti
21 Morning View
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Stars under pressure to lose weight

FLOCKHART AND PARKER. Looking good and gaunt has built-in negative consequences.

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday night, the E! entertainment channel telecast a provocative special investigative piece on "The Thinning of Hollywood." Host Leeza Gibbons made a number of telling points, the relevance of which goes beyond the boundaries of the world of show business, to affect the world at large:

Badge of honor

Stars now wear their "fashionable" thinness as a badge of honor. They're under a lot of pressure to lose weight so they can look better or younger on TV or in the movies. Their goal now is not to be a size two or three, but a size zero!

All of a sudden, thin stars are considered desirable and even sexy. This is a drastic departure from the past, when sexiness meant curves and *flesh*, not skin and bones.

The currently fashionably gaunt ideal is called the Lollipop Look, because the "starving" stars all have big heads attached to such stick-like bodies!

The situation has gotten out of hand because even little Christina Ricci, who is only a size two and weighs only 105 pounds, is described in the media as "one of Hollywood's heavyweights"!

Some Hollywood insiders are worried that the fad isn't going to end until "somebody drops dead" (heaven forbid). Stars are under such pressure to lose weight that rumor has it that a few of them may even be cultivating tapeworms to suck up the nutrients they ingest! We hope for all our sakes that there's no truth to that mind-boggling report!

Dangerous trend

How did this potentially dangerous trend get its start? Some point to the fashionably gaunt example set by the paper-thin likes of Calista Flockhart, Lara Flynn Boyle and Sarah Jessica Parker.

Stars believe that thin silhouettes are "in" and thus result in more jobs for them. They also look young, so they become more popular with the huge youth audience.

There is also the perception that the worlds of high fashion and show biz have fused, so stars are now expected to look like fashion models. This has been intensified by the "fashion parade" that stars participate in when they walk down the red carpet on the way to the Oscar or Golden Globe awards rites.

Extreme exposure

On the red carpet, stars are expected to wear fashionably revealing gowns, so they *have* to be thin to get away with such extreme exposure.

How do stars become thin? Some of them simply starve themselves to lose the most weight in the shortest time possible. They go on water-only or cabbage-soup diets, which they combine with dangerous drug use and a lot of exercise.

A few resort to even more extreme measures, like colonics and other experimental procedures. This combination of methods, some weight-loss experts fear, could lead to long-term problems that could have dire consequences as far as the stars' health and even their psychological wellbeing are concerned.

Problems

Potentially even more troubling is the effect of the "fashionably thin" fad on the general public. When we see stars trying to look good by losing a lot of weight, we could be tempted to do the same thing themselves, and the consequent problems could be multiplied many times over.

So, the word's out for the rest of us, and the hope is that we all listen: Looking good and gaunt has built-in negative consequences, so let's not go there, shall we?

Let's find out what is the ideal weight for our height and age group, and stay within that norm, even if some people call us chubby. It's far better to be pleasingly plump than fatally gaunt!

GMA's Kalahi all set for Bohol

ENVIRONMENTAL artists Chin-Chin Gutierrez and Bayang Barrios are joining the President's anti-poverty cultural youth program to Bohol—its second Visayan tour after Boracay—in observance of Disability Prevention Week (July 17-23) on the occasion of the 437th Anniversary of Bohol's Sandugo.

Tool

The President's Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi) cultural program, focusing on harnessing the arts and media as a tool to fight poverty, sets foot on the island province to provide free cultural training services to the marginalized Bohol youth and outreach to the disabled sector.

On the other hand, the unique water arts gallery on a triple-route (Boracay, Bohol and Batangas-Manila Bay) was designed by Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez to underscore the importance of protecting and conserving the country's degraded coastal and marine resources and to serve as a special communications plan for the United Nations World Summit for Sustainable Development.

Monument

Bohol will also witness the president's declaration of the island province as a National Geological Monument in time for the opening of the 10-day Sandugo sa Kalinaw Festival 2002.

In conjunction with Bohol's Teen theater program under the supervision of Lutgardo Labad, the Unesco-ITI/Earthsavers Dreams Academy with a group of physically and economically handicapped kids under the direction of Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, has been invited to demonstrate the Kalahi arts education program, to culminate in a peace concert in Tagbilaran City on July 21.

When . . .

From p. D3

and nailed her the role over the likes of Paulette Goddard, Katharine Hepburn, Joan Crawford, Joan and Constance Bennett, Susan Hayward and hundreds of other wannabes. Even if she didn't star beside her Laurence, she had Clark Gable, the King! Now, what English girl would complain about such a twist of fate?

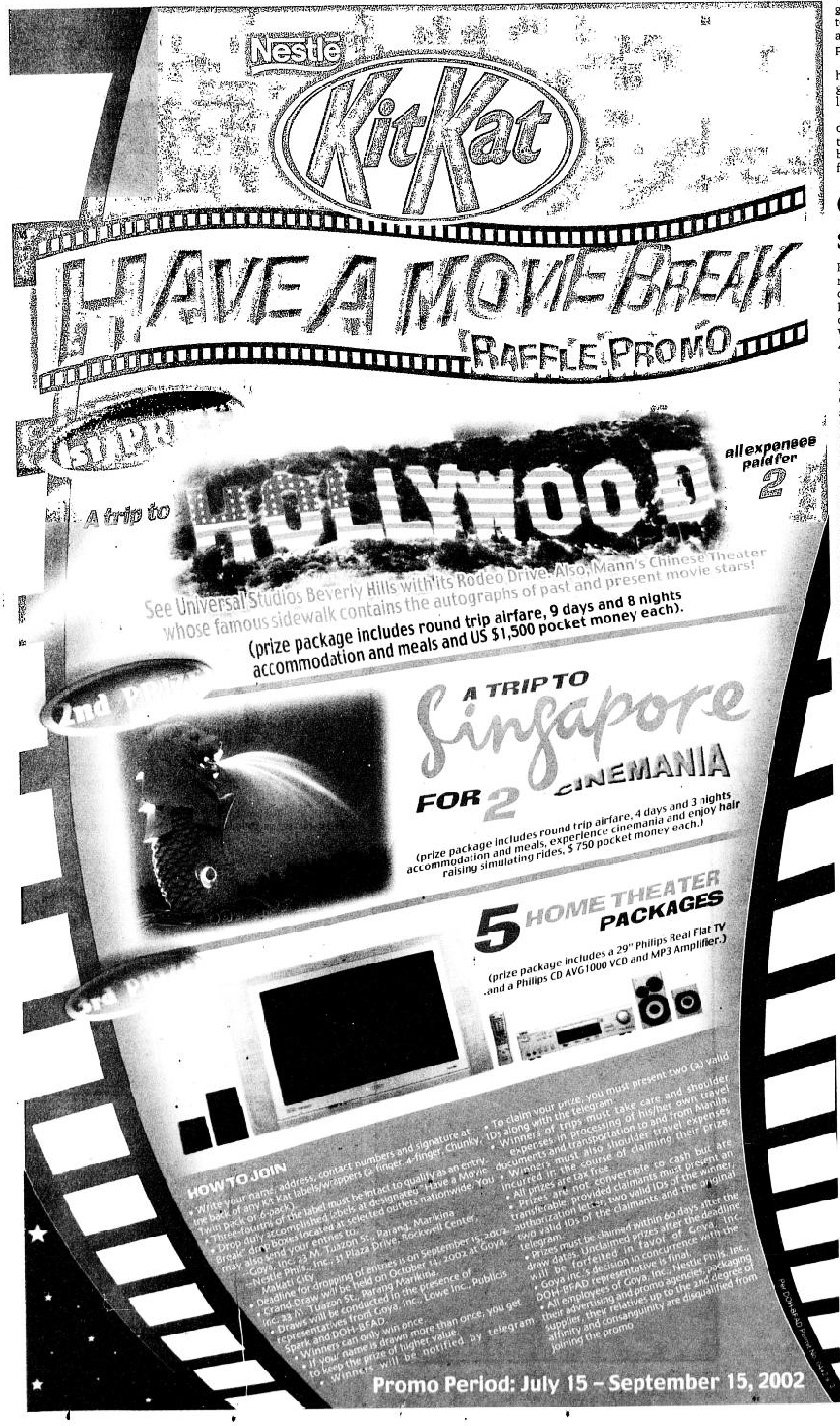
Experimental musical

Cyd Charisse was MGM's ever reliable and most gorgeous ballerina. She had graced many musicals and was awaiting the big chance, so when the studio was talked into making the Stanley Donen-Gene Kelly experimental musical "An American In Paris," Cyd was given the wonderful news by the studio honchos that she would play the French lass.

Instead of being overjoyed, as they expected, Charisse broke down and wept. She was a few weeks pregnant! The exhausting and immortal dance numbers would have made her lose the baby. Well, her loss was Leslie Caron's gain. Cyd could have achieved stardom, but Hollywood's loss was *motherhood's* gain.

What if? What if the creators of the roles they played on Broadway had been cast in the movie versions? Would they have achieved immortality, as did their Hollywood replacements? What if Mary Martin was cast to play Maria in "The Sound of Music," would the film have been a classic?

What if Ethel Merman starred in "Gypsy" instead of Rosalind Russell? Ironically, Merman, one of Broadway's grand dames, lost the Tony to Martin in "Sound of Music." However, Angela Lansbury won it when she appeared in the revival. And Bette Midler was given an Emmy for its television adaptation. *(To be concluded)*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See Universal Studios Beverly Hills with its Rodeo Drive. Also, Mann's Chinese Theater whose famous sidewalk contains the autographs of past and present movie stars!
(prize package includes round trip airfare, 9 days and 8 nights accommodation and meals and US $1,500 pocket money each).
2nd PRIZE
A TRIP TO Singapore FOR 2 CINEMANIA
(prize package includes round trip airfare, 4 days and 3 nights accommodation and meals, experience cinemania and enjoy hair raising simulating rides, $ 750 pocket money each.)
3rd PRIZE
5 HOME THEATER PACKAGES
(prize package includes a 29" Philips Real Flat TV and a Philips CD AVG1000 VCD and MP3 Amplifier.)

HOW TO JOIN
- Write your name, address, contact numbers and signature at the back of any Kit Kat labels/wrappers (2-finger, 4-finger, Chunky, Twin pack or 6-pack).
- Three-fourths of the label must be intact to qualify as an entry.
- Drop duly accomplished labels at designated "Have a Movie Break" drop boxes located at selected outlets nationwide. You may also send your entries to:
  - Goya, Inc. 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang, Marikina
  - Nestle Phils., Inc., 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
- Deadline for dropping of entries is on September 15, 2002.
- Grand Draw will be held on October 14, 2002 at Goya, Inc. 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang Marikina.
- Draws will be conducted in the presence of representatives from Goya, Inc., Lowe Inc., Publicis Spark and DOH-BFAD.
- Winners can only win once.
- If your name is drawn more than once, you get to keep the prize of higher value.
- Winners will be notified by telegram.
- To claim your prize, you must present two (2) valid IDs along with the telegram.
- Winners of trips must take care and shoulder expenses in processing of his/her own travel documents and transportation to and from Manila.
- Winners must also shoulder travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prize.
- All prizes are tax free.
- Prizes are not convertible to cash but are transferable, provided claimants must present an authorization letter, two valid IDs of the winner, two valid IDs of the claimants and the original telegram.
- Prizes must be claimed within 60 days after the draw dates. Unclaimed prizes after the deadline will be forfeited in favor of Goya, Inc.
- Goya Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD representative is final.
- All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestle Phils. Inc., their advertising and promo agencies, packaging supplier, their relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Promo Period: July 15 – September 15, 2002
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. [illegible]

When movie stars turn down plum roles

By Behn Cervantes

ONE of Hollywood's favorite anecdotes is about how Warner Brothers rethought the original cast for the immortal "Casablanca." The Best Film of 1943 remains one of the world's favorites.

Famous quotes

Any movie buff can tell you that "Casablanca" starred Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid. "Play it again, Sam" and "This could be the start of a new friendship" are famous quotes from the film.

"As Time Goes By," the film's theme song interpreted by Dooley Wilson, is a standard that just about every lover has hummed when in a romantic mood.

So did you know that instead of ethereal Swede Ingrid Bergman, the refugee fleeing the Nazis in Europe, Warner Brothers had Ann Sheridan, their Oomph Girl, tagged for the role?

Instead of gritty Humphrey Bogart, the studio tapped a clean-cut actor for the disillusioned bar owner. The actor was Dennis Morgan, remembered for some musicals including "Desert Song" and "On Moonlight Bay," a vintage Doris Day vehicle in black and white.

And, for Bergman's principled underground hero, the studio had pinpointed Ronald Reagan, another contract star better known as the husband of Jane Wyman!

Acute interest

Ron may have lost the role to Austrian Paul, but he was later elected president of the film capital's Actor's Guild. An acute interest in politics lost him Wyman, but in time he was elected Governor of California. Not satisfied with that post, he became the first actor to be elected President of the United States.

Would "Casablanca" have won the Academy Award as that year's best film with the projected trio? Would it be our favorite today if Warner's original plans had prospered? Silly question!

If Cary Grant had accepted the role of Professor Higgins in "My Fair Lady," would he have won the Academy Award for Best Actor, as did Rex Harrison? The answer to that requires some thought. If he accepted the title role of in "Elmer Gantry," would the Hollywood icon have won the coveted golden statuette, as did Burt Lancaster? Questions, questions, questions! Poor Cary was known for being extra careful in his career choices, and wary of risks. I guess he forgot the well-known axiom , "No guts, no glory!"

Julie Andrews, Broadway's Eliza Doolittle, was really devastated when the "My Fair Lady" female lead role was given to superstar Audrey Hepburn, who no doubt looked lovelier in the part, although her singing was almost completely dubbed. Of course, La Julie had her sweet revenge when she romped away with the Oscar for "Mary Poppins."

Julie also lost the role of Guinevere to Vanessa Redgrave in "Camelot." Redgrave was so stupendously beautiful that Julie kept mum and did not protest. Besides, by this time, she was the new superstar with blockbusters like "Sound of Music."

Flagging career

It is well-known that ambitious Joan Crawford coveted an Academy award to revive her flagging career. When she learned that "Mildred Pierce" was the role that would do the trick, she hounded Warner executives until they gave in. The role was taken away from oft-nominated Barbara Stanwyck and won for "Mother Dearest" Joan the Oscar she oh, so coveted.

Many years later, she campaigned for Anne Bancroft against co-star Bette Davis, who was nominated for "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane." (Jealous) Joan wasn't. Well, Anne won for "Miracle Worker." Had Davis won, she would have been the first actress to have garnered three Academy Awards for Best Actress, a feat later on accomplished by the more principled Katherine Hepburn.

To add insult to injury, Joan volunteered and did accept the statuette on behalf of Ms Bancroft, a deed done to hurt her archrival Bette. Davis later attributed Joan's antipathy for her to Bette's rejection of Joan's sexual advances. Not to mention professional jealousy, of course!

Maggie Smith handily won the Oscar for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," a role that was first created onstage by the magnificent Vanessa Redgrave. What if Vanessa played the role, would she have won her first Academy award? More questions!

Hollywood's super moppet Shirley Temple had to turn down "The Wizard of Oz" because of schedule problems. There was also a hesitance to do a full-blown musical. Well, Shirley's loss was Judy Garland's gain, since the musical and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" transformed Judy into MGM's biggest star, no matter if her troubled life was the antithesis of all the great song-and-dance movies she is best remembered for.

Young British import Vivien Leigh coveted the "Wuthering Heights" role played by Merle Oberon in 1939, not only because it was a grand part but because she wanted to play opposite Laurence Olivier, with whom she was then having a torrid love affair, although both were still married to other mates.

She failed to nail the role but she didn't mope too long because very soon after she was chosen to play the immortal Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With The Wind." She was presented to producer David Selznick while the he was watching the major sequence on the burning of Charleston.

Her beautiful face with the flickering reflection of the fire accentuated her green eyes

WHEN/ p. D2

GRANT AND ANDREWS. Considered for the screen roles of Henry Higgins and Guinevere, respectively.

A symphony
in wood and stone.

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that rolls from this hill.
To that hill.

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Be right in the middle of peaceful clusters of Italian-inspired villas,
while you enjoy hills, trees, a nearby river and great wide open spaces.
It's your harmonious haven in the midst of progressive, urban Alabang.

Portofino. Mellow graceful landscapes developed to suit your taste,
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Portofino
Life with a passion.
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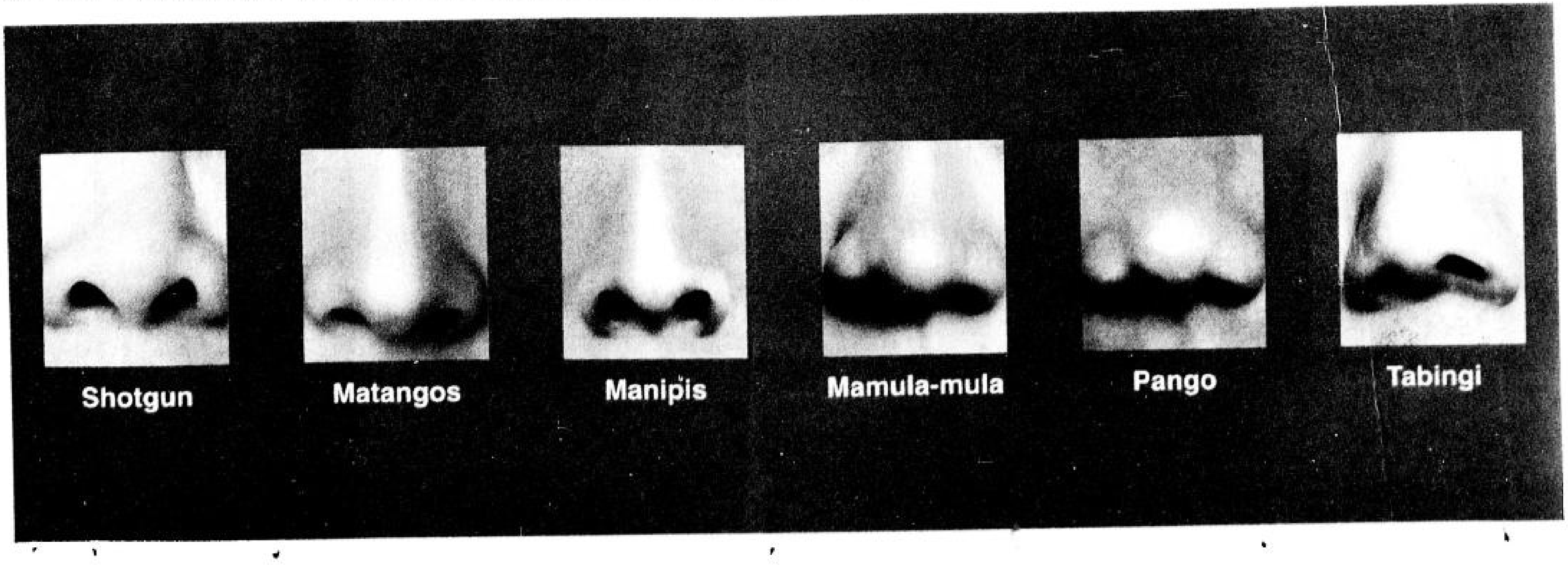

a1. A more mature sound.

a1's first foray into rock music

By Noelani Torre

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Hybrid

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The album has the best tracks up front, beginning with the chart-topping "Caught in the Middle" and the title track "Make it Good." Both are catchy, infectious, and scarily easy to sing along with, resulting in that curious phenomenon known as the LSS (last song syndrome—when a tune remains in one's mind, no matter what). It can be pretty embarrassing when you're more of a U2 and Coldplay sort of person.

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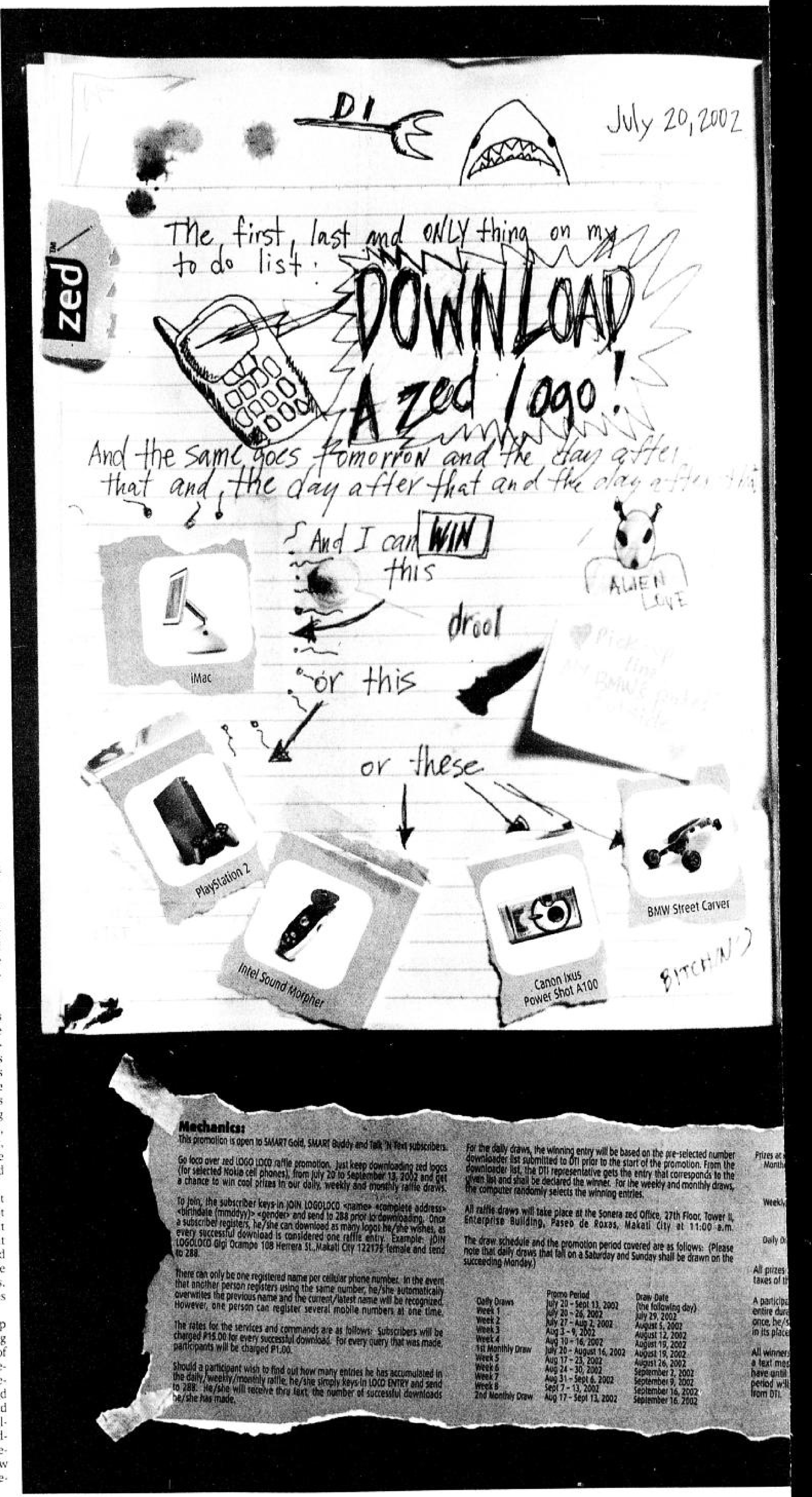
All in all, this is a more grown-up album with less teeny-bopping songs and with an equal balance of slow, sappy numbers and their livelier counterparts. Sounding sometimes like Savage Garden and sometimes like former boy-band member Ronan Keating, it's polished and radio-friendly, but decidedly bland. This is the usual tasteless boy-band fare, with but a few added spices—and rock, it definitely is not.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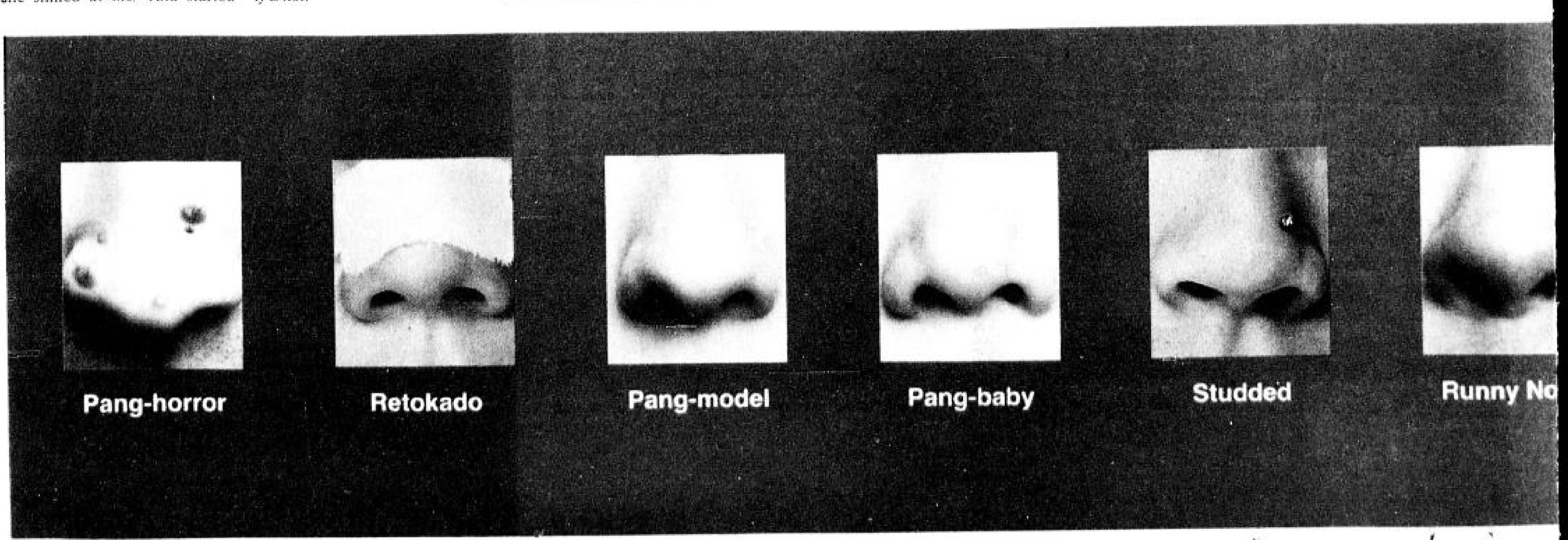

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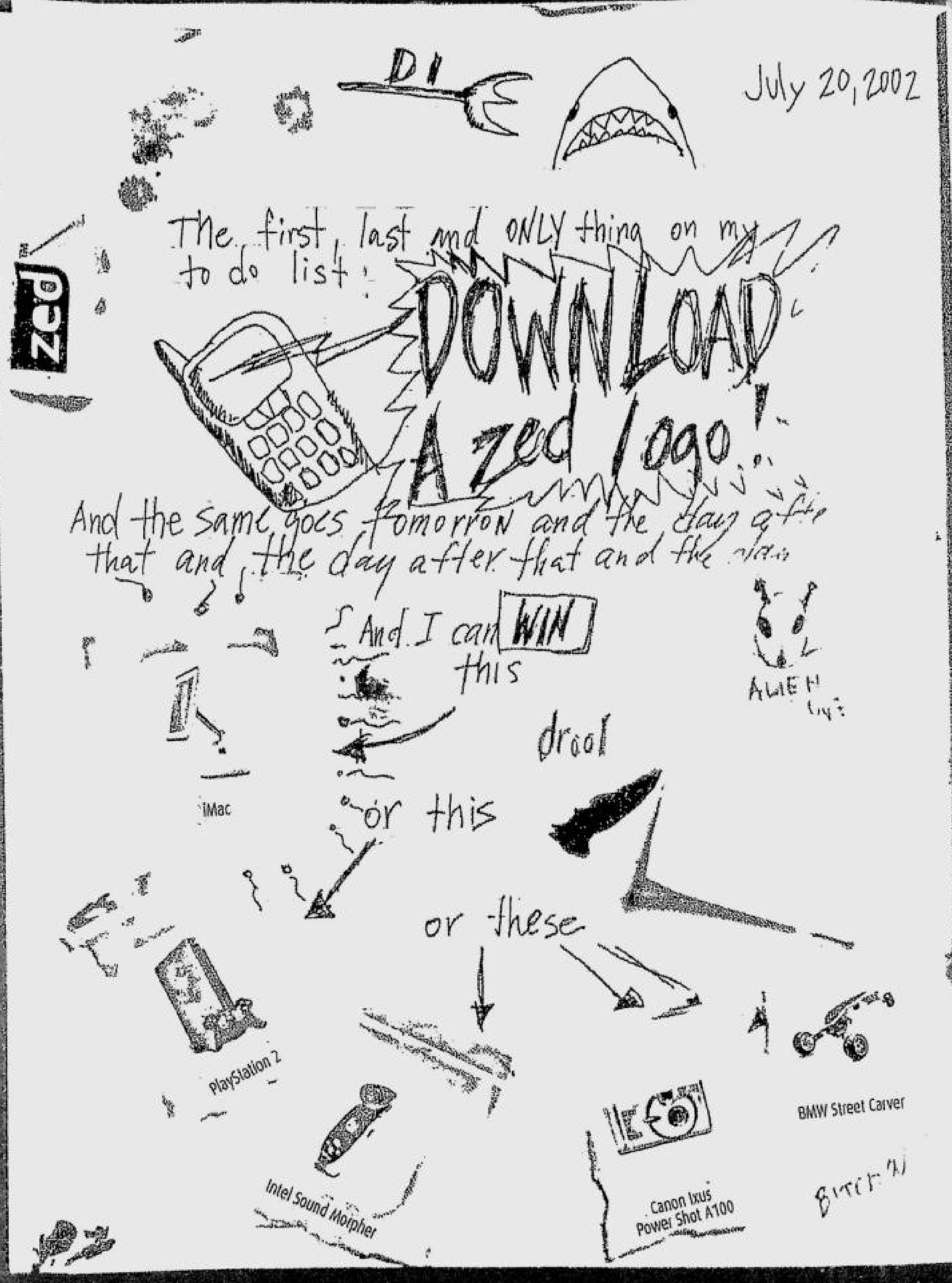
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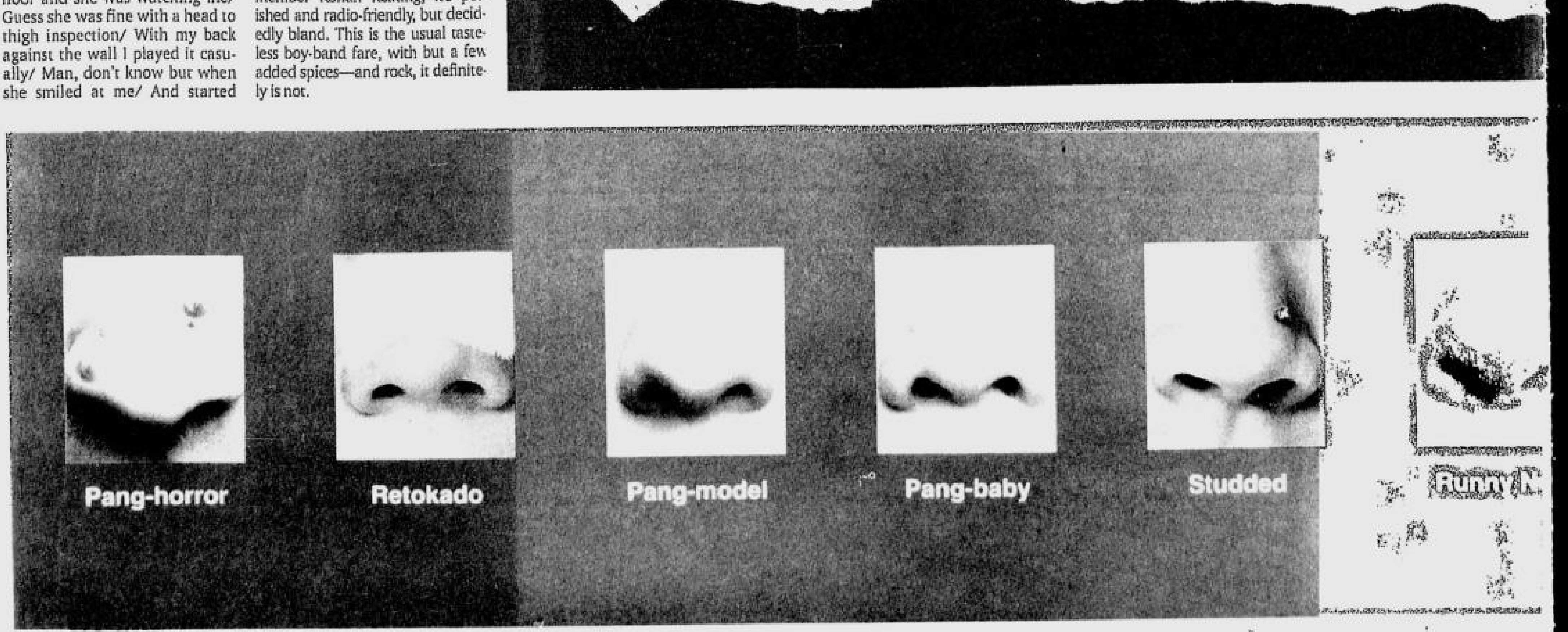

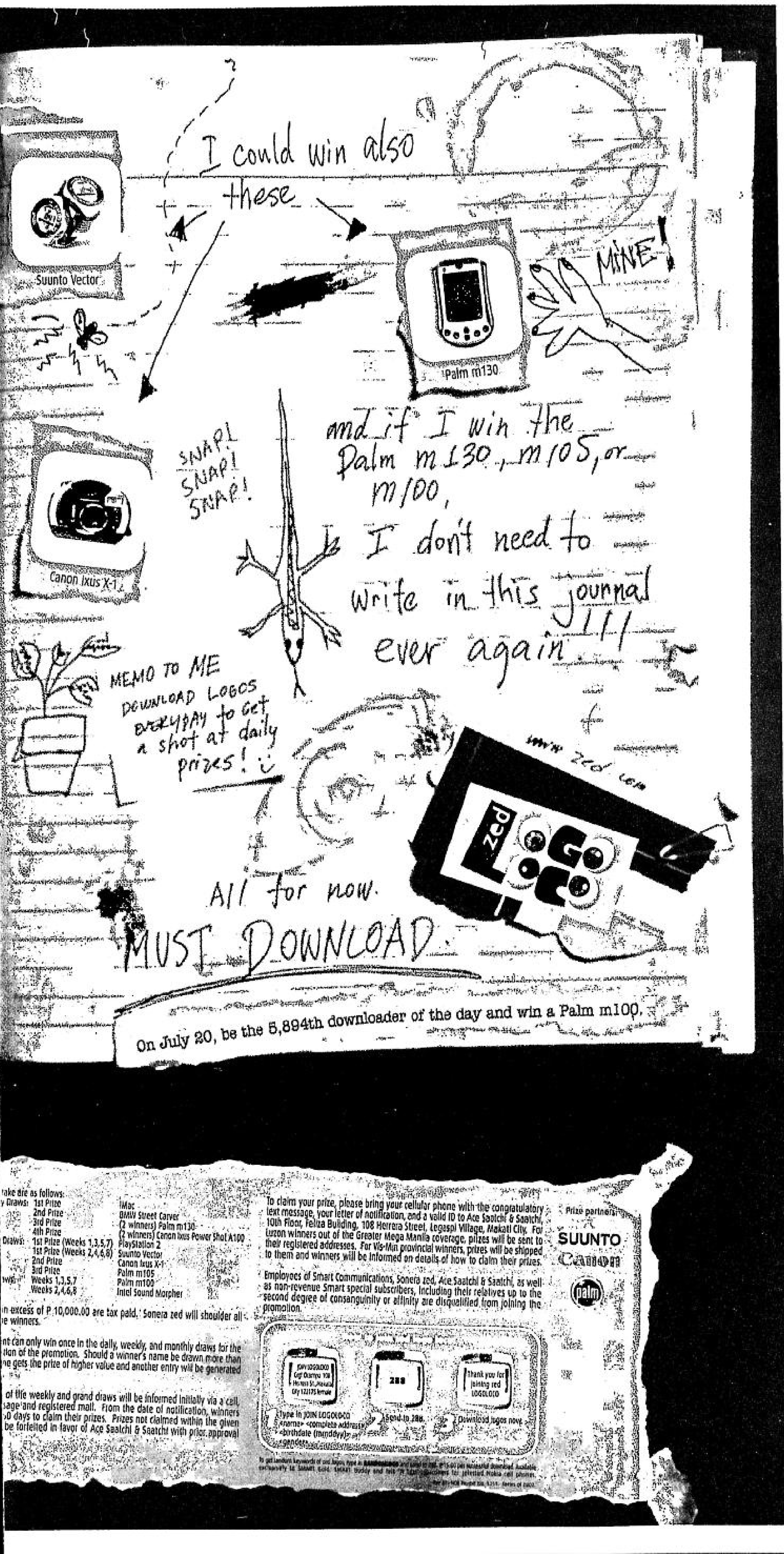
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	2nd Prize	BMW Street Carver
	3rd Prize	(2 winners) Palm m130
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Draws:	1st Prize (Weeks 1,3,5,7)	PlayStation 2
	1st Prize (Weeks 2,4,6,8)	Suunto Vector
	2nd Prize	Canon Ixus X-1
	3rd Prize	Palm m105
	Weeks 1,3,5,7	Palm m100
	Weeks 2,4,6,8	Intel Sound Morpher

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of the weekly and grand draws will be informed initially via a cell, sage and registered mail. From the date of notification, winners 0 days to claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within the given be forfeited in favor of Ace Saatchi & Saatchi with prior approval

To claim your prize, please bring your cellular phone with the congratulatory text message, your letter of notification, and a valid ID to Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, 10th Floor, Feliza Building, 108 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. For Luzon winners out of the Greater Mega Manila coverage, prizes will be sent to their registered addresses. For Vis-Min provincial winners, prizes will be shipped to them and winners will be informed on details of how to claim their prizes.

Employees of Smart Communications, Sonera zed, Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, as well as non-revenue Smart special subscribers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

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3 Download logos now.

Prize partners: SUUNTO Canon palm

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Coco Lee's element of musical surprise

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

LEE. Perfectionist.

COCO Lee is a musical surprise. Jaws inevitably drop in disbelief whenever the striking siren sings for people who judge her by her Asian looks. "They cannot imagine what I'll sound like, but always when I'm done, people are very surprised," admits Coco.

Although she can count the element of surprise as one of the facets of her musical repertoire, Coco Lee is by no means a novelty act.

"People liked my voice so much, because it was so different. I also combined the R &B feel with the pop music of Taiwan. Everyone there used to sing conservatively, they sang to the melody and that was it. The music just sounded so dead. I wanted to bring the R & B flavor and other Westernized sounds to my music because that's the type of music I grew up listening to."

Born in Hong Kong but raised in San Francisco, Coco is the youngest of three girls, all of whom can sing. Their mother a medical doctor and a musical talent in her own right, encouraged her children to pursue more traditional careers.

Still, her mom's profession intrigued Coco.

"My interest was always in medicine, so that was my goal in life. I never wanted to be anything else other than a doctor." But it was encouragement like the standing ovation she received after performing for her high school junior class that kept the dream alive for the then teenage Coco.

"I remember going to a karaoke place at Fisherman's Wharf where you could record your own songs. My best friend paid for it and I made a tape. Later, she'd play it in a restaurant where she worked, and people would want to buy it. And that's when I knew I could sing and make it a career."

She isn't afraid to sweat. "When I work, I work. I don't think about anything else. I want to get the work done. And I'm a perfectionist."

Ricky Davao hosts Gantimpala's anniversary show

Award-winning actor Ricky Davao leads the hosts of Gantimpala Theater Foundation's anniversary show, "Gantimpala: A Silver Harvest," at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on July 26.

Ricky will take the audience on a nostalgic trip via video from the CCP to the Metropolitan Theater, GTF's home for many years.

Spanky Manikan and Susan Reyes will introduce a medley of songs from GTF musicals like "Magsimula Ka" headlined by Isay Alvarez, Tricia Amper-Jimenez, Beverly Salviejo, Timmy Cruz, May Bayot, Michael Laygo and Rina Reyes.

Allan Paule and Pinky Marquez will pay tribute to Ray Ventura and Rene Requiestas.

TeleDyaryo celebrates 1st year

We are happy to know that NBN's "TeleDyaryo," has survived its' first year on TV. It celebrated its anniversary last Tuesday with cocktails at the NBN studios.

Network chairperson Mia Aquino Concio wishes to thank everyone who never gave up on the network and its 8 p.m. newscast.

NBN general manager Joey Isabelo recalls, "The first few days after 'TeleDyaryo' was launched, we got mixed reactions. Some said it was too risky, but we went on with the show for NBN to address an audience who found the regular early evening news too early, and the late night news too late. I guess it worked."

It's also a plus factor that the daily lotto draws are part of "TeleDyaryo" and when the cash pot is huge, the number of viewers doubles.

'Sex and the City's' other big star

We became instant fans of Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda when we first set eyes on them in "Sex and the City." Before the last season ended, Aidan (Carrie's boyfriend) became a regular fixture. And when the new season took off two months ago, a lot of televiewers started falling for Aidan, what with his new clean-cut looks, which make him a deadringer for Jim Brickman.

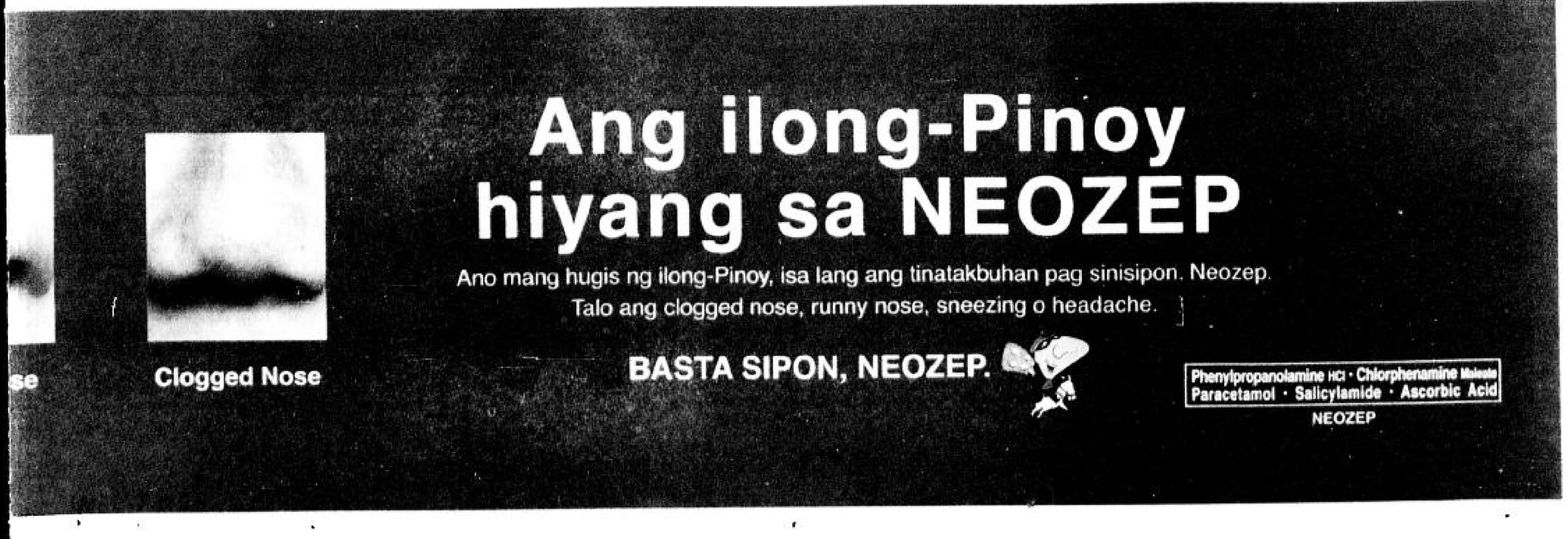
Although more on the conservative side, Aidan's character gives the "women-dominated" show the masculine factor it needs to keep it balanced.

Alex Compton remains grounded

No, ace basketball player Alex Compton won't be sitting on the bench because of any suspension slapped on him. He's too clean for that. What we're talking about here is Compton's humility despite his many successes.

From being athletic superstar and TV program host, Compton is now a much-sought-after product endorser and brand image model. In a brief chat with him, during a Hartmann photoshoot, we found out about his strong faith in God, his passion for street children, his wholesome lifestyle, his close relationship with his family, his level of personal calmness and high regard for others, and his sincere feeling of "being complete" despite being unattached.

Yes, Compton is endorsing men's underfashions but he need not show any skin to be sexy. "That's pretty much the concept," he smiles. "It's comfort and quality first above all other things. You do not have to show much because it manifests itself naturally."



Ano mang hugis ng ilong-Pinoy, isa lang ang tinatakbuhan pag sinisipon. Neozep.
Talo ang clogged nose, runny nose, sneezing o headache.

BASTA SIPON, NEOZEP.

Phenylpropanolamine HCl · Chlorphenamine Maleate
Paracetamol · Salicylamide · Ascorbic Acid
NEOZEP

A DAY IN THE LIFE WITH THE SUPER SIM

Here's an example of a day in the lives of four different people in a family, affected by the amazing innovation known as the SMART 64KSuper SIM:

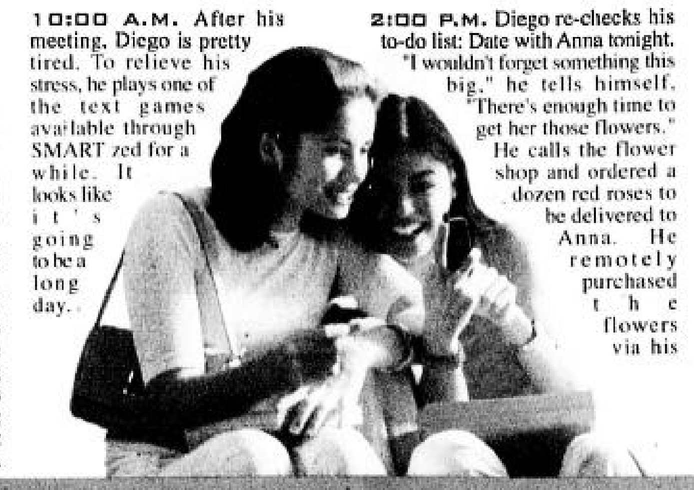
6:00 A.M. Erica wakes up to the sound of her alarm clock. She's got an hour to get to school and she has to rush. She barely slept after studying all night for an exam later. She checks her SMART celfone and her to-do list reiterates what she already knows: study group at 8A.M. Meanwhile, her dad, Gerry, is already having coffee and finishing breakfast. When he gets to the road while heading for work, he hasn't had time to read the newspaper, but that's not a problem. He clicks on the SMART zed menu on his 64K Super SIM and checks for breaking news as well as the foreign exchange rate. After serving breakfast for the family, Gerry's wife, Bianca, is already checking her horoscope and the latest showbiz news all through SMART zed.

7:00 A.M. Erica's older brother Diego is just about to leave the house. He checks the traffic updates on SMART zed via his 64K Super SIM to avoid the bottlenecks across Manila. His to-do list already informs him of a meeting scheduled at 8a.m. as well as his itinerary for the day.

7:30 A.M. Erica arrives at school, and gets excited when hearing the news: Mandy Moore's latest song is now downloadable on SMART zed! She hurriedly downloads the tone, as well as the latest logos to personalize her SMART celfone. Time to review again for that test!

9:00 A.M. Gerry has been engaged in a board meeting for over an hour. He checks the weather forecast of the day since he has to leave for Subic the next day for a business trip.

10:00 A.M. After his meeting, Diego is pretty tired. To relieve his stress, he plays one of the text games available through SMART zed for a while. It looks like it's going to be a long day.



11:30 A.M. Bianca has been tidying up the house while watching a few talk shows on TV. She's been texting her friends rapidly, sharing showbiz tidbits left and right. They've agreed to have their weekly get-together this Friday at their favorite hangout in Malate. Erica suddenly texts her mother. "Running out of pre-paid credits, please load my account. Tnx Mom! :)" Bianca shakes her head, smiles, then loads her daughter's SMART Buddy pre-paid credit via Bianca's SMART Money Account.

12:00 NOON. While Gerry is leaving for lunch with his client in Makati, Diego is beginning lunch with officemates in Ortigas. He pays for his lunch at one of the foodcourts through his SMART Money account on his 64K Super SIM. After loading her SMART Buddy Pre-Paid phone thanks to her mom, Erica takes a quick lunch right before her exam. She knows she can pass this since she's prepared.

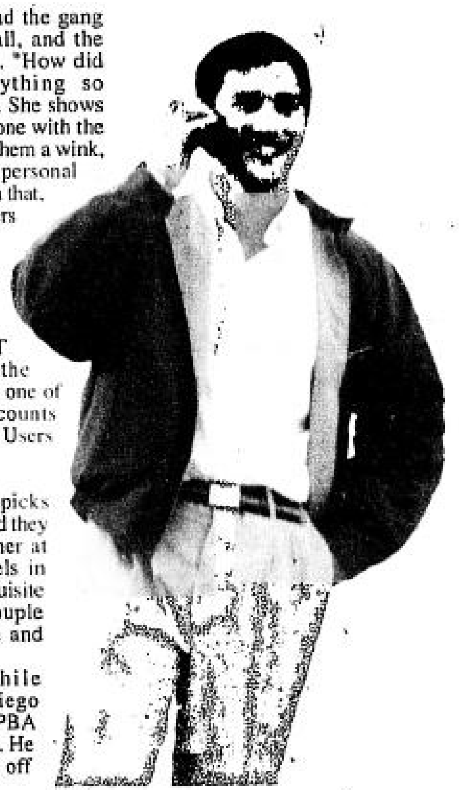
1:30 P.M. Erica is done with her test. She wasn't sure about a couple of questions... but she feels she got most of them right. Time to text the barkada and coordinate a gimmick! Erica checks out the movie schedules at Robinson's Galleria Movieworld and adds the movie schedule to her group text. "I'll let the majority of them decide what's the best time to watch the movie," she thinks.

2:00 P.M. Diego re-checks his to-do list: Date with Anna tonight. "I wouldn't forget something this big," he tells himself. "There's enough time to get her those flowers." He calls the flower shop and ordered a dozen red roses to be delivered to Anna. He remotely purchased the flowers via his SMART Money and earned Loyalty Rewards points at the same time. "I'm lucky I've got SMART to cover my back," he thinks, and kisses his phone.

4:00 P.M. Erica and the gang are already at the mall, and the movie's about to start. "How did you organize everything so quickly?" they ask her. She shows them her SMART celfone with the 64K Super SIM, gives them a wink, and says, "This is my personal gimmick planner." With that, the whole barkada enters the cinema with buckets of popcorn and drinks with them. And by the way, they got it FREE, because they used their SMART Money to pay for the movie tickets! It's just one of the few freebies/discounts SMART Money Card Users get.

7:00 P.M. Diego picks Anna up from work and they head off to have dinner at one of the finer hotels in Makati. Dinner is exquisite as usual, and the couple enjoys the ambience and their conversation.

8:00 P.M. While enjoying dinner, Diego makes sure to check PBA scores on SMART zed. He wipes the quick smile off his face after seeing his favorite team won, and resumes his exchange with Anna. By 9:30, Diego has taken Anna home where those dozen red roses are waiting for her. She gives him a warm kiss and hug, and thanks him for the lovely evening.



10:00 P.M. One by one, they've been arriving home. Bianca has had dinner with Gerry and Erica was able to eat with her friends. Diego gets home and the smile is plastered on his face. He kisses his mom and dad goodnight, and has a quick chat with his baby sister before heading to his own room.

EACH ONE IS DIFFERENT, YET EACH OF THEM ENJOYED THE BENEFITS OF THE COMBINED SERVICES OF SMART ZED AND SMART MONEY THROUGH THEIR INDIVIDUAL SMART 64K SUPER SIMS. ISN'T IT AMAZING HOW SMART'S INNOVATIVE SERVICES CONTINUES TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF FILIPINO FAMILIES FOR THE BETTER?

SMART's Number Portability: No Need to Change SMART Celfone Number When Upgrading to Super SIM!

SMART 64K
supersim

There's no way life could be better for you. There you are, enjoying your SMART GSM celfone and all the benefits that come along with it, whether it's the ringtones, logos, and games of SMART zed, or the cashless shopping offered by SMART Money. You've probably heard of the new SMART 64K Super SIM that combines both services of SMART Money and SMART zed, along with personalization, but you're afraid that if you upgrade, you won't be able to retain your existing celfone number. Isn't it going to be such a hassle to buy a new SIM as well?

That's where you're wrong! By simply going to the nearest SMART Wireless Center, SMART subscribers can upgrade to the Super SIM and retain their old SMART GSM number! There's no need to tell everybody in your phone book that you're switching numbers as you get to keep your existing number as well as your old phonebook and transfer them to your new SMART 64K Super SIM. If you're a SMART Buddy subscriber, you can avail of the Super SIM upgrade for only P399, while SMART Gold subscribers can upgrade for absolutely free if you have completed your contract term!

Add to that an amazing variety of features such as an expanded phonebook that can handle up to 250 entries, up to 60 text messages in your inbox, and the ability to send secure text via the Private Text feature that ensures only intended recipients get your texts. You can also shortlist your SMART zed menu by adding and keeping only the services you want for true personalization.

We haven't even gotten to how the 64K Super SIM combines SMART Money and SMART zed yet! Before, with a SMART Money SIM, you can shop without cash, load your friend's SMART Buddy Pre-paid over-the-air and even send flowers to your loved ones with just a few clicks on your celfone. While with a SMART zed SIM, you can get everything from up-to-the-minute news to e-mail to ring tones and logos to movie schedules and more. You can even locate friends wherever they are at your convenience. Now, with the new SMART 64K Super SIM, both zed and Money options are in one SIM with just a few clicks on your celfone.

All of these features, all at the click of you celfone, and you don't even have to change your celfone number! So upgrade to the SMART 64K Super SIM now, and experience a whole new way to enjoy your SMART way of living!

SMART Brings You New Friends and a Boracay Adventure!

One of the truly most popular shows to ever be aired in recent memory is "Friends". The sitcom about six twenty-something friends in New York City who go through life's trials and tribulations, but always together, either as friends or lovers, is a worldwide phenomenon that is still going strong after over 7 years on the air. SMART, in cooperation with Star World, is now prepared to ask, "Are you a Joey or a Chandler?" By examining your knowledge on "Friends" trivia, you and five other friends can win a free trip to Boracay in the process!

From July 6 to August 6, 2002, you can join in on the Friends Personality Quiz as well as the Friends Trivia Game. SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers simply key in JOIN <full name> and send to 241 to start your "Friends" adventure.

While watching "Friends", a lot of us have probably said something like, "Monica is so obsessive-compulsive. She's just like me!" or "Ross is such a nerd. He reminds me of one of my barkada!" Well, now's your chance to find out which "friend" you're most similar to through the SMART Friends Personality Quiz. Once registered, you will be presented a series of questions on dating, money, marriage, etc. You will then be matched with the personality of one of the six "Friends" characters.

The amazing thing about the Friends Personality Quiz is that completion of the questions will automatically match your personality with another subscriber based on your results! For example, you may see something like this: "When it comes to relationships, you are definitely a ROSS. Please wait... you are being matched with a RACHEL."

When two subscribers have been matched, both will be sent a confirmation message, as well as instructions on how to chat with each other. A "Chandler" can be matched with a "Monica", a "Joey", etc., he can even be matched with another Chandler. Just type SAY <ur message> & send to 241. EX: SAY hello! The two subscribers can then send messages to each other using the SAY Command. For example:

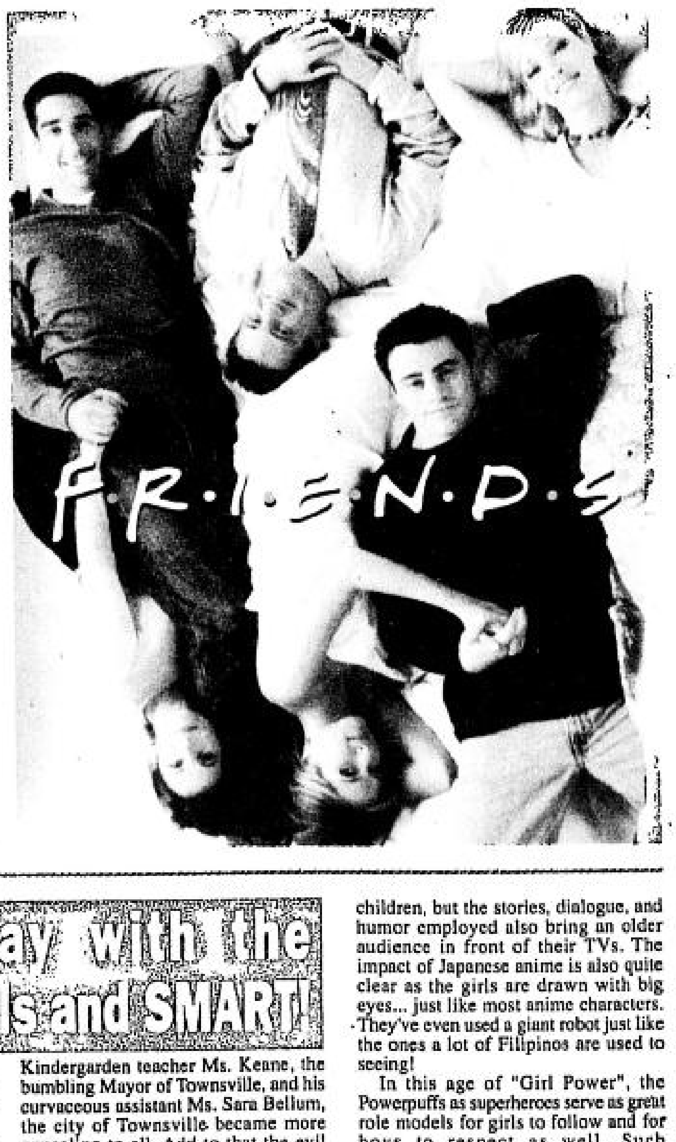
- Subscriber 1 (ROSS) keys in: SAY Hi, whats ur name?
- Subscriber 1 will be sent a confirmation message "Your message has been sent"
- Subscriber 2 (RACHEL) keys in: SAY Hi, Im Rhea. Whats ur name?

The two subscribers can continue to chat like this until one of them types END. They can then go on and ask to be matched with another player.

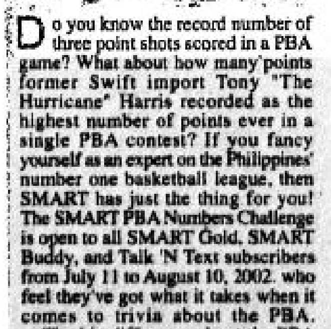
Another feature of the SMART Friends service is the Friends Trivia game, where you get to test your fan knowledge on your favorite TV show. Think you know the name of Phoebe's twin sister? What soap opera was Joey a regular on? Which popular actress played Chandler's mother? If you know the answers to all of these, and more "Friends"-related info, then here's your chance to not just brag about your "Friends" IQ, but win a trip to Boracay as well! Every correct answer on the Friends Trivia game earns players a raffle entry. There are two questions given per day until August 6, 2002. The more correct answers you get, the more raffle entries earned, the more chances of winning!

You and your own group of five other friends can be on the white beaches of Boracay by joining the Friends Trivia Game! You can even invite your friends to join in the Friends Trivia Game and increase your chances of winning! By typing INVITE <SMART celfone number> and sending to 241, you earn another raffle entry!

So double your pleasure as you meet and chat with new friends through the Friends Personality Quiz and earn the chance to win a trip for six to Boracay through the Friends Trivia Game, all brought to you by the widest reaching coverage of your true friend in wireless mobile communications, SMART!



Test Your PBA Knowledge Thru SMART!



Do you know the record number of three point shots scored in a PBA game? What about how many points former Swift import Tony "The Hurricane" Harris recorded as the highest number of points ever in a single PBA contest? If you fancy yourself as an expert on the Philippines' number one basketball league, then SMART has just the thing for you! The SMART PBA Numbers Challenge is open to all SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text subscribers from July 11 to August 10, 2002. who feel they've got what it takes when it comes to trivia about the PBA.

The big difference about the PBA Numbers Challenge is that clues will be provided to lead players to the correct answers! If you're wrong, you'll get clues whether to go higher or lower regarding your numerical answer.

To register, key in JOIN Q <full name>/<complete address> then send to 290. To get the question for the day, just key in Q then send to 290. The answers to all questions will always be a number. Players can keep on guessing until they get the correct answer. If the subscriber gives an incorrect answer, he/she will be told if the correct answer is higher or lower. For instance, if the question is "What year did the Purefoods franchise first enter the PBA?", just type in Q 1986 and send to 290.

Each correct answer corresponds to a raffle entry in the daily raffle and there is no limit to the number of times the subscriber can keep sending in the correct answer. There will be two raffle winners of P10,000 each daily for the duration of the promo period.

Everybody knows that basketball is the Filipino's passion. If we're not playing it, we're very likely watching and cheering for people who are playing. The PBA is the dream of almost every Filipino basketball fan. In it's over 25-year history, it has kept us entertained and glued to our seats. Most Filipinos also fancy themselves as basketball experts in general and PBA experts in particular. Now, you have the chance to prove not just to your friends, but to the whole country, how much you know about the PBA! The SMART PBA Numbers Challenge may just be your ticket to basketball greatness.

Save the Day with the Powerpuff Girls and SMART!

"Sugar, spice, and everything nice. These are the ingredients used to create the perfect little girls." These are also the same words that open up every episode of the cartoon phenomenon known as The Powerpuff Girls. Over the course of two short years, the Powerpuff Girls have become one of the most popular cartoons worldwide and their appeal isn't just directed at young girls. SMART is now all set to bring you along with Blossom, Bubbles, and Buttercup for the wildest ride in Townsville just in time for The Powerpuff Girls Movie!

By registering through your SMART and Talk 'N Text celfones, help the Girls defeat the evil Mojo Jojo and rescue Professor Utonium! From June 30 to July 31, 2002, get free Powerpuff Girls operator logos by just by playing the game. You also get the chance to win a SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 phone kit in the raffle draw!

Any story about the Powerpuff Girls would not be complete without talking about creator Craig McCracken. The animator has long been a fan of cartoons, and when the opportunity arose to make his own, he jumped at it. After serving as art director for several episodes of college buddy Genndy Tartakovsky's equally successful Dexter's Laboratory series, McCracken finally got to put his Powerpuff dream onto the small screen.

Launching a very short episode on Cartoon Network's What A Cartoon! Show, the Powerpuff Girls were first seen beating the inept gangsters known as the Amoeba Boys, and the redneck goof called Fuzzy Lumpkins. Each character was well written and had a distinct enough personality that Cartoon Network executives agreed to launch the series full time.

The origin of the Powerpuff Girls begins as Professor Utonium, a brilliant yet lonely scientist sets off to create the perfect daughters for himself. As he combines sugar, spice and everything nice, an accident occurs and he spills the mysterious "Chemical X" into the mix. Thus the Powerpuff Girls were born! Blossom, the redhead with the ponytail, acts as commander and (often pushy) leader. Bubbles the blonde is often the cute and innocent one who is sort of the baby of the group. Bubbles, the brunette with the 'take no prisoners attitude, loves to beat up on evil monsters.

With a supporting cast that includes Prof. Utonium, Pokey Oaks Kindergarden teacher Ms. Keane, the bumbling Mayor of Townsville, and his curvaceous assistant Ms. Sara Bellum, the city of Townsville became more appealing to all. Add to that the evil machinations of super-villains like the verbose green monkey Mojo Jojo, Princess the spoiled rich kid, the creepy and mysterious Him, notorious troublemakers the Gang Green Gang, the aforementioned Amoeba Boys and Fuzzy Lumpkins, and your monster or creature of the week, and the Powerpuff Girls became a certified hit!

The appeal of the Girls has been so broad that creator McCracken tries to inject some adult humor once in a while to keep that part of the audience entertained. Thus, the Powerpuffs are animated with colors and designs that appeal to children, but the stories, dialogue, and humor employed also bring an older audience in front of their TVs. The impact of Japanese anime is also quite clear as the girls are drawn with big eyes... just like most anime characters. They've even used a giant robot just like the ones a lot of Filipinos are used to seeing!

In this age of "Girl Power", the Powerpuffs as superheroes serve as great role models for girls to follow and for boys to respect as well. Such overwhelming worldwide success has led to the production of a motion picture starring everyone's favorite heroines themselves: The Powerpuff Girls! The Powerpuff Girls Movie is all set to launch the girls into a whole new medium and SMART will be there to bring all the action to you!

SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers can join in the Girls' super adventures by typing REG <name>/<address> and sending it to 25601. Once registration is successful, they are automatically given one (1) raffle entry. Contestants are presented different scenes where they choose the course of action for the girls (i.e. fight Mojo Jojo, fall into danger, etc.). Once the game is completed successfully, contestants earn ranks of Powerpuff Trainee, Junior Powerpuff, and Genuine Powerpuff. Failure to save the day or capture earns players five raffle entries while successful bids earn ten raffle entries. Subscribers can earn as many entries as they want by playing more games!

So join in on this Powerpuff experience and help the Powerpuff Girls save the day before bedtime!

Stars whine about stardom

By Leia Torre

"HOLLYWOOD and Whine," subtitled "The Snippy, Snotty, and Scandalous Things Stars Say About Each Other," is a book that offers its readers some insights into life in Hollywood. This informative volume was written by Boze Hadleigh, and is composed of numerous quotations compiled by the author. These little snippets of thought come from most everyone who is or has been anyone in Hollywood.

Status

This book is one of many that the author has written about Hollywood celebrities and what they have to contend with due to their status.

In his preface, Hadleigh explains why most people the world over are fascinated by the things people have to say about other people. He further states that in Hollywood, things that people say about each other have a more extreme effect than those said by ordinary people.

Because Hollywood's denizens enjoy and/or suffer from fame, most of the things they say frequently end up as fodder for everyone else to feast upon. That is why stars are often warned not to say anything that they would not want recorded for posterity.

Viewpoint

Unfortunately, celebrities are not always careful about what they choose to utter. And quite a number of them don't care if they have their less-than-sensitive comments immortalized in print.

The result is thousands of controversial, inflammatory quotations. And in a world where popularity is everything, one can expect more backbiting, crushing putdowns and insults.

Although this book's subtitle leads us to assume that all of its contents are negative or derogatory, there are some quotations that speak of a personality's sincere admiration of another star. The author many have included these uplifting thoughts in order to prevent the book from being too depressing or anger-inducing for its readers.

Teen doctor

An example of this is something that Neil Patrick Harris (who played TV's teen doctor in the series "Doogie Howser, M.D.") said about Matt Damon: "Excellent actor, very attractive, very charismatic. I don't mind losing parts to Matt." Before one assumes that Harris is sweetness personified, however, one should read what he thinks of Leonardo DiCaprio: "Very, very lucky..." Is the remark meant to be sarcastic, or what?

When it comes to insults, it is not true that women are more vitriolic than men. As proof of this, an evaluation of John Wayne's thespic abilities by Gregory Peck goes like this: "That's why John Wayne finally became a good actor in 'True Grit' - he's got 150 [movies] behind him . . . he's developed . . . from mining that same vein over and over and over again!"

In "Goldfish Bowl," celebrities complain about the price of fame, and how ironic it is that their hard work to become famous is followed by the harder work they have to do to keep people from recognizing them!

One of the examples of what fame can do to disrupt a person's life is what Winona Ryder usually experiences when going out in public: "What's awful about being famous and being an actress and being petite is when people come up to you and touch you. That's scary, but they seem to think it's okay to do it, like you're public property."

An extreme form of this fan behavior is what happens to Julia Roberts, who admits, "I don't like to be mean to fans, but I have to have cops around me now. The worst is when people come up and just grab you."

Price to pay

Another price to pay is the way stars' relationships with their family members are affected. Like what happened to Drew Barrymore: "My father said, 'Hey, Drew, you want to give me an autograph, too? How 'bout putting it on a check?'"

While this was no doubt meant as a joke, other stars aren't as lucky. Here's a more cynical quotation on stardom and family from Jose Ferrer: "If you're an actor or actress and you decide to have a kid, you better raise it with kid gloves, or someday it might write a tell-all book about you!"

This book is made for easy reference, because the quotations are categorized and not simply lumped together. Also welcome is the index at the end of the book.

Although the book cannot be used as a source of inspiring thoughts, it's fun to read about stars who have everything, but are insecure enough to sling insults at one another. Makes you feel better about your less fortunate lot in life, huh?

DREW Barrymore's dad once asked for her autograph— on a check!

Mel Chionglo directs another dramatic film

The ace director's movies have reaped praise not only in the Philippines but also in filmfests abroad

CHIONGLO. His latest movie is on betrayal and its devastating effect on people's lives.

By Remy M. Umerez

ONE of the few directors who commands respect and admiration from his peers is Mel Chionglo. He is also among those who prefer to center his movies on human relationships.

Mel was born and raised in Lucena City, Quezon province and graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities.

For 10 years, he worked and studied acting and directing at the NY Academy of Theatrical Arts under Stella Adler and Lee Strasberg.

Production designer

He returned to Manila in 1976 and worked as production designer for Mike de Leon's "Itim." He owes his directorial break to Mother Lily. In 1980, he megged "Playgirl" for Regal. He followed up with movies like "Nasaan Ka Nang Kailangan Kita," "Paano Kung Wala Ka Na," and "Sinner or Saint."

The '90s saw Mel directing two controversial films depicting the gay nightlife in the city: "Sibak" (Midnight Dancers) got Mel in contact with Fortissimo Films of the Netherlands, which distributed the film worldwide. And "Burlesk King," produced by Seiko in 1998, competed in the Chicago International Film Festival. It was also shown at the Toronto filmfest.

Initial offering

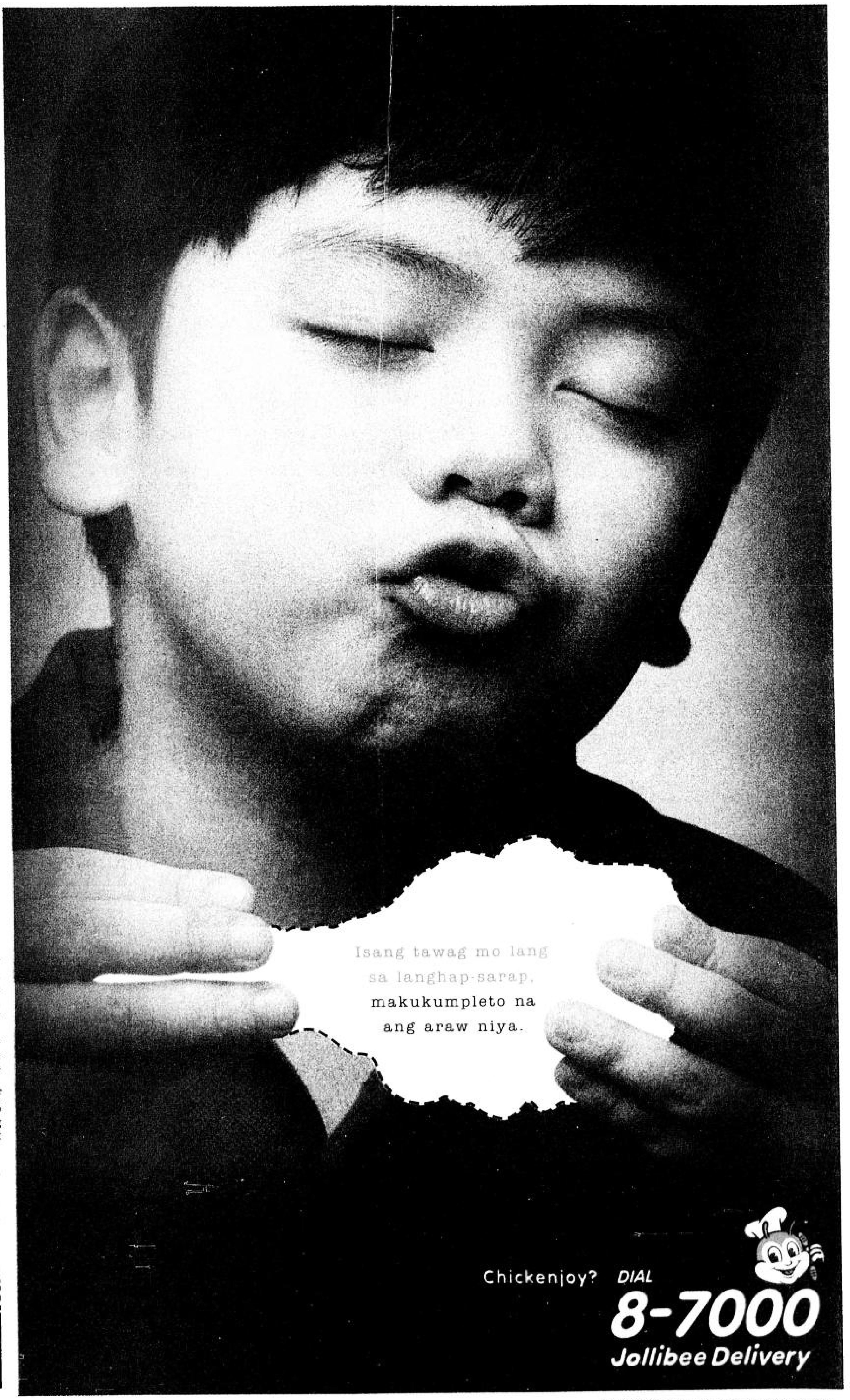
Mel is back to drama in Jaggs Entertainment initial offering, "Kapalit?." He directs a cast which includes Victor Neri, Jay Manalo and Alma Moreno in a story of betrayal and its devastating effect on people's lives.

Comebacking star Alma raves about the all-out support the amiable director has given her, inspiring her to act like she's never acted before.

Another convert to drama is Victor Neri, who was last seen as the singing rival of Robin Padilla in "Videoke King." He plays Edwin, the husband of Alma who loses his leg in a vehicular accident.

The actor is full of praise for Mel's patience in bringing out the best in him. He finds the director very cool, systematic and open to suggestion.

For Mel Chionglo, the measure of success is more than just making his performers act well. It is when people approach him and express how much they enjoyed viewing his film because it touched their lives.



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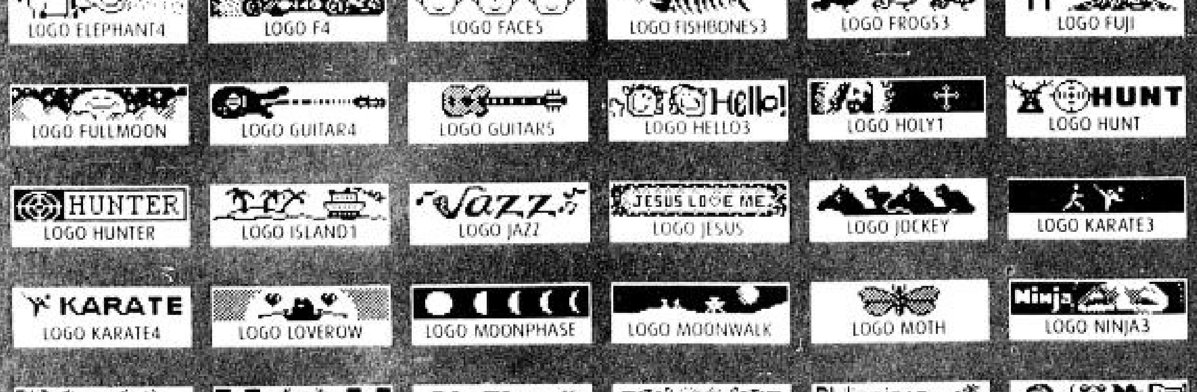
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LOGO GUITAR4
LOGO GUITAR5
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HUNT
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LOGO ISLAND1
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LOGO LOVEROW
LOGO MOONPHASE
LOGO MOONWALK
LOGO MOTH
Ninja
LOGO NINJA3
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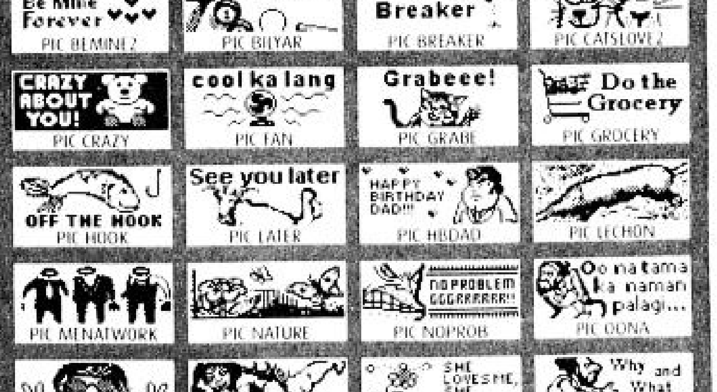
PICTURE MESSAGES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PIC BREAKER
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cool ka lang
PIC FAN
Grabeee!
PIC GRABE
Do the Grocery
PIC GROCERY
OFF THE HOOK
PIC HOOK
See you later
PIC LATER
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD!!!
PIC HBDAD
PIC LECHON
PIC MENATWORK
PIC NATURE
no problem GGGRRRRRR!!
PIC NOPROB
Oo na tama ka naman palagi...
PIC OONA
PIC PEACEMAN
PIC SEXY
SHE LOVES ME, SHE LOVES ME NOT?
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Darren Hayes
TONE INSATIABLE

Jumpin' Jumpin'
Destiny's Child
TONE JUMPIN

Our House
Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young
TONE OURHOUSE

I'm A Slave For You
Britney Spears
TONE SLAVE4U

Say My Name
Destiny's Child
TONE SAYMYNAME

Fallin'
Alicia Keys
TONE FALLIN

May It Be (Lord of the Rings)
Enya
TONE MAYITB

Row Row Row Your Boat
TONE ROWROW

I'm Like A Bird
Nelly Furtado
TONE IMLIKEA

Superman
Five for Fighting
TONE SUPERMANS

So Young
The Corrs
TONE SOYOUNG

One In A Million
Aaliyah
TONE ONEINAMIL

The Real Slim Shady
Eminem
TONE SLIMSHADY

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Jennifer Lopez
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SATURDAY *Special*

THE MEGASTAR, then and now.

Sharon Cuneta, 25 years later

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Sharon Cuneta joined show biz as a cute, perky 12-year-old 25 years ago, it just looked like a fun thing to do during summer break. But her first albums and movies clicked, so she soon decided to make a real go of it. Surprisingly, the fans warmed up to her and backed her up.

Surprising

This *was* surprising, because in the '80s, the biggest stars came, not from "society," but from the *masa*. Fans identified utterly with the likes of Nora Aunor, who sold water for a living at the train terminal in her hometown, but they *also* liked the well-off Sharon.

They couldn't really identify with her and her privileged background, but they liked her singing and enjoyed her acting. Most of all, they loved her cute and sunny disposition. It made their problems go away for a couple of hours, and that was good enough for them.

There came a time when Sharon's "relentless" cuteness became a joke, like she could turn it on automatically, and that was all she had to offer.

Public's perception

Later, however, when Sharon married much too early, had a child, got separated, and tried her best to become a good single, working mom, the public's perception of her changed. Even her worst critics began to see good things in her performances, and in her person.

It also made her a better actress and singer. When she first tried to do "heavy" drama, in Lino Brocka's "Pasan Ko ang Daigdig" (*really* heavy, because she had to carry her mother on her back in the film), she wasn't right for the role of a beggar, and came off as trying-hard.

Later, however, she learned how to choose her dramatic vehicles more judicially, and began to get good reviews for her performances.

Hit films

But it was clear that she still had to shore up her popularity with hit films, so she made movies with the likes of FPJ and Robin Padilla, popular vehicles that didn't really require much from her in the acting department.

Her romances with some male stars also didn't bolster her image as a serious actress, but what was a lonely and still young woman to do?

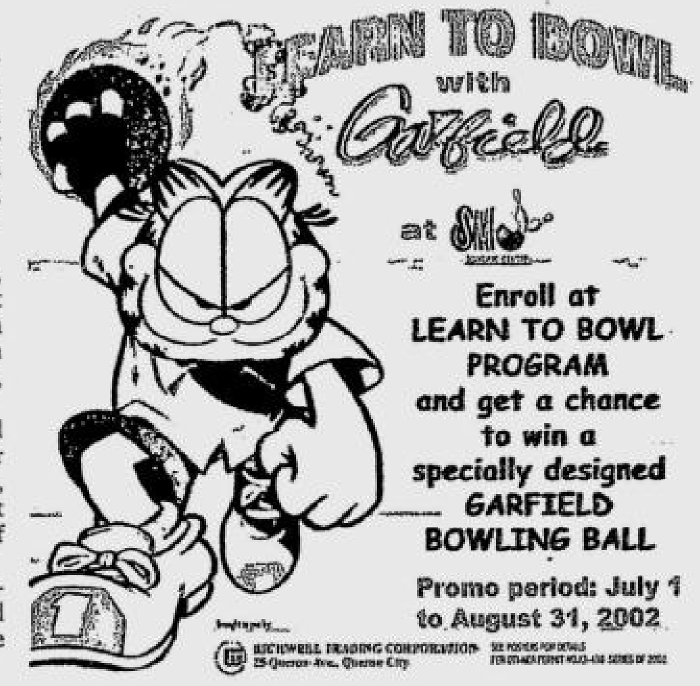
Sharon's major point of transition came after she had gotten her marriage annulled, married Atty. Kiko Pangilinan, decided to have a child by him, put her career on hold, and stayed with him as he studied in the States.

Difficult decision

This was a difficult decision for Sharon to make, because she had invested so much time and effort in building her career up to its "mega" level, and her protracted absence could make her lose everything.

But her personal happiness had become important to

SHARON/p F1



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Quick, reliable results from new dengue test

By Tessa Salazar

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

PHYSICIANS and dengue experts in the country have been stressing on the need for timely and accurate laboratory confirmation of dengue infections for prompt diagnosis and treatment of dengue.

Unfortunately, imported dengue detection kits are expensive and are not that reliable, probably due to variations in local virus strains. Doctors are forced to rely mainly on clinical diagnosis, which they say are not that accurate compared to laboratory tests.

Dengue detection depends mainly on the victim's platelet count. If it is down, then the dengue virus is identified as the infectious agent. It's a reliable test, but the results often come too late. By the time the laboratory results are in, the patient might already be hemorrhaging.

To address the need for quick but accurate dengue testing, the local scientific community has developed reagents for laboratory confirmation of dengue infections.

Produced by the Research and Biotechnology Division of the St. Luke's Medical Center, these reagents are now available for routine Elisa (enzyme-linked immunosorben assay) tests in hospitals.

Dengue infections can now be confirmed in just five hours using these new reagents. Previously, laboratory confirmation took weeks using the old reagents (which were also more expensive).

The Dengue Study Group of St. Luke's trained health personnel from various government hospital sentinel sites on the use of the new reagents. These personnel have returned to their respective regions and are now capable of detecting the presence of the dengue virus in blood samples.

St. Luke's has also developed a laboratory-based technology for molecular detection of dengue infections.

It maintains a repository center for the storage and maintenance of over 5,000 serum samples obtained from dengue patients all over the Philippines.

Dr. Ronald Matias, head of St Luke's Dengue Research Program, said his team is developing newer methods of detecting the dengue virus.

"We are isolating the dengue virus and comparing the different dengue virus isolates from previous years. We want to know if there are previous mutations that occurred so that we can say if we are still dealing with the original dengue virus and not a mutant form," Matias said.

Matias added that through this technique, the laboratory could differentiate if the dengue virus cases in the country were not due to "imported" infection.

The Dengue Research Program, the Helminthiasis Study Group of the University of the Philippines-Manila and the Limb Salvage Surgery and Bone Transplantation of the UP-Philippine General Hospital won the outstanding health research award given by the Philippine Council for Health Research Development.

The St. Luke's program is very timely, considering the large number of dengue cases in the country each year.

Dr. Nemia Sucaldito, program manager for dengue of the Department of Health, said that from Jan. 1 to June 29 this year there were 2,072 dengue fever cases admitted to national sentinel hospitals.

"This is a 70 percent decrease in the number of cases compared to the same period last year," she said. But she added that the decrease in the number of cases did not mean that the country has already defeated dengue.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever continues to kill thousands

By Charles E. Buban

ONE of the potentially lethal complications of dengue is dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). First reported more than 200 years ago, DHF was formally recognized and studied more closely only in the 1950s (during epidemics that struck the Philippines and Thailand).

DHF incidence has grown dramatically and has become a leading cause of hospitalization and death among children. It can be found in more than 100 countries. Before 1970, only nine countries had experienced DHF epidemics.

Symptoms

DHF is a potentially deadly complication of dengue that is characterized by high fever and hemorrhagic symptoms including enlargement of the liver and, in severe cases, circulatory failure.

The illness commonly begins with a sudden rise in body temperature accompanied by flushing of the face. The fever, which can reach as high as 40 to 41 degrees Celsius, usually lasts for two to seven days.

In moderate DHF cases, the symptoms abate once the fever subsides.

In severe cases, however, the patient's condition may suddenly deteriorate when the body temperature drops. This is followed by circulatory failure. The patient may then rapidly go into a critical state of shock and die within 12 to 24 hours unless quick and appropriate procedures are administered.

Each year, around 500,000 DHF cases require hospitalization of which a very large number are children. Without proper treatment, the DHF case fatality rate can exceed 20 percent but modern intensive, supportive therapy can reduce this to less than one percent.

Four serotypes

Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection found mostly in tropical and subtropical regions around the world, predominantly in urban and semi-urban areas.

The spread of the disease is often associated with the expanding presence of the four dengue virus strains and of their mosquito vectors, the most important of which is the species *Aedes aegypti*.

There are four distinct, but closely related, virus strains that cause dengue: virus serotypes DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4 of the genus Flavivirus. Recovery from infection by one provides immunity against that serotype but confers only partial and transient protection against subsequent infection by the other three. This means that people living in a dengue-endemic area can have four dengue infections during their lifetime.

It is difficult to develop a vaccine for dengue and DHF because any of the four virus strains may cause the disease, and protection against only one or two could actually increase the risk of developing a more serious disease.

How to let go of stillbirths

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

LONDON—Mothers who see and hold their stillborn infants may suffer more psychological trauma than those who don't, a new study suggests—contradicting years of medical advice to bereaved parents.

The research also found that next-born children are more likely to have psychological problems if their mothers held or saw their stillborn sibling.

Several experts welcomed the findings, but Erica Stewart, spokesperson for Britain's Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society, said they contradicted her experience with mothers who had lost a child.

"We take calls from mothers who lost babies in the 1930s, '40s, '50s and '60s, and they want to deal with (their loss) now because it was never acknowledged at the time," she said. "They had no closure."

65 women studied

The study, published in the British medical journal The Lancet, assessed 65 women in Britain who were pregnant for a second time after a previous stillbirth.

Of those who had seen and held their dead baby, 39 percent suffered depression during pregnancy or in the following year, compared to 21 percent of those who had only seen the infant.

Of those who had neither seen nor held their baby, only 6 percent suffered depression.

For decades stillborn infants were quickly removed to avoid distressing the parents, but since 1985 guidelines for British medical staff have suggested encouraging mothers to see and hold their children to help in the grieving process.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists advises that "parents may need to be informed that if they do not see their baby they may regret it as it could make mourning more difficult."

The advice is widely followed—almost three-quarters of the mothers in the study had seen their stillborn babies, while just over half had also held them.

More depression

But the women who had seen and held their infants suffered greater anxiety and greater symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder than those who had not.

The study also found that 42 percent of next-born children whose mothers had had contact with a stillborn sibling suffered problems in mother-child bonding at 12 months, compared to only 8 percent among children whose mothers had not.

Dr. Cathy Spong, chief of the pregnancy and perinatology branch at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development in Bethesda, Maryland, said the study was an eye-opening contribution to an under-researched field.

"We encourage parents to see their baby and hold their baby—common sense suggests it would be beneficial. I never really thought it might be harmful," she said.

"Certainly there are limitations to the study, as there are with any study. But it brings forward a good case for further research."

Phillip Hodson, a psychotherapist and spokesperson for the British Association for Counseling and Psychotherapy, said he was not surprised by the study's results.

"All our psychologies differ," he said. "For many people, it's important to face the loss, to have a symbol and a totem. For some people, the experience of loss is enough."

Hughes, a consultant and senior lecturer in psychiatry at St. George's Hospital Medical School in London, said it was crucial that medical staff listened to parents' wishes.

"There has to be huge sensitivity to the needs of the parents, and absolutely no pressure on them," she said. *AP*

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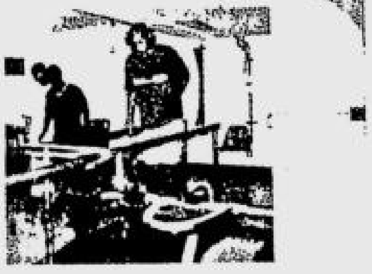
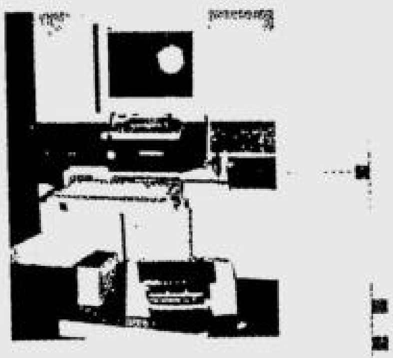




Sharon Cuneta, 25 years later

From p. E1

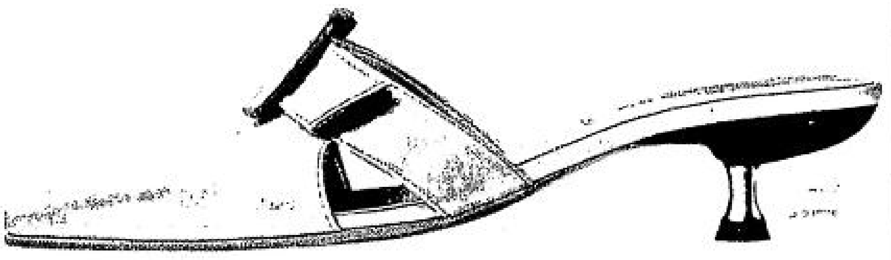
her at that point, so she gambled on her fans' loyalty and took years off to have a baby, etc. Gratifyingly, her fans didn't give her up for the latest flavor of the month in show biz.

In fact, she garnered even more fans, because people in general were impressed with her determination to learn from her past mistakes, and become a good wife and mother.

Politics

When her husband entered politics, a new dimension was added to Sharon's priorities and possibilities. Will the Megastar eventually add First Lady to her list of titles? Perhaps-but

SHARON/ p. E5



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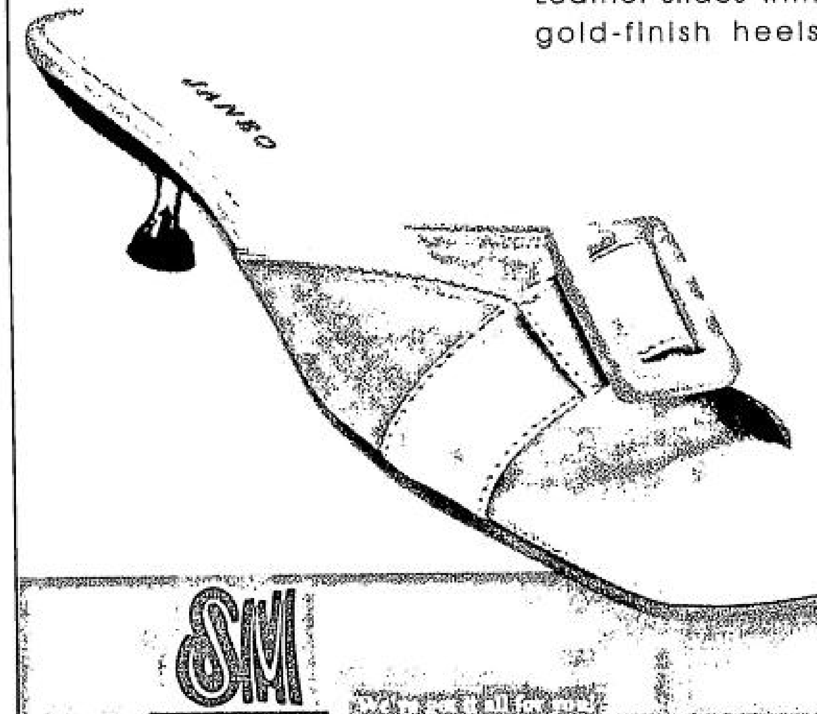

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The new cosmetic quick fixes

By Massie K. Santos
Contributor
(Last of two parts)

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

COSMETIC quick fixes are magical. They can instantly transform imperfect figures into great ones that people envy and help celebrities who are making a comeback look as good as they did before they vanished into obscurity.

Some quick fixes, however, take effect faster than others and don't require hospital visits or leave heavy bruising, swelling or tenderness. This in part accounts for the extreme popularity of Botox. The rest is due to media hype and word of mouth.

Men and women at Botox parties happily undergo the quick procedure that keeps their faces wrinkle-free up to three months. But the small doses tend to leave the face unnaturally still, preventing several facial expressions—an advantage to some people, poker players in particular.

(One wonders though if the increased availability of the purified botulism toxin could pose a threat to the water source of a major city or region since only a few drops are necessary to poison an entire population living around a reservoir.)

The side effects mean there's room in the quick fix market for "better" products, and two companies in different continents have come up with what they consider to be the next generation of cosmetic treatments.

These two new drugs follow the pattern of Botox: injecting a gel into the patient's body to act as filler, thus reducing and smoothening out wrinkle lines. Like Botox, results are immediately noticeable.

Joint lubricant

The wonder substance in one of the new treatments is hyaluronic acid, more commonly known as the stuff that keeps the body joints lubricated and is found in every living thing. In this case, the hyaluronic acid in the treatment teams up with the body's own reserves to smoothen out the lines.

Q-Med Esthetics Inc. is the Swedish company that manufactures Restylane, also known as Perlane in certain parts of the world. The hyaluronic acid used in its products could be distinguished from its competitors' by the fact that it is Non-Animal Stabilized Hyaluronic Acid (Nasha). This means diseases can't be transmitted from animals to people, and that people allergic to any food products will have no reactions to the treatment.

The effects of Restylane last far longer than Botox or collagen, giving most patients until six to eight months between injections.

Anesthetic

Artecoll, the other new treatment, is a wrinkle-reducing product from Canderm Pharma Inc. based in Canada. The filler gel is composed of lidocaine (a topical anesthetic that relieves pain), collagen and tiny plastic beads called polymethymethacrylate (PMMA). The collagen acts as a stabilizer so that the PMMA can bind to the natural collagen in the body to smooth out the wrinkles. Once the injected collagen degrades, the body's collagen replaces it, thus permanently smoothening out the affected area.

Unlike Botox and Restylane though, the full results can only be seen after three months. Further injections, if necessary, can be done every two months.

The treatment has been around for a decade or so, although it hasn't hit the news until now. One drawback to using Artecoll, however, is that patients who wish to use it must first take an allergy test because the collagen used comes from cows. If one doesn't mind the animal compound used and isn't allergic to it, then Artecoll may be the closest to permanent skin rejuvenation that anyone can hope to come across with.

Two centuries ago, women died slow and painful deaths because the powder they used to whiten their faces contained lead. Today anyone can die a painful, but fairly quick, death from improperly done cosmetic injections. It may actually be less risky to eat fugu fish at a Japanese restaurant, regardless of whether or not the chef is qualified to prepare it.

The point here is that the problem with dying from the side effects of cosmetic quick fixes, and eating badly prepared fugu, is that no one looks good after and even the most talented makeup artist can't completely repair the ravages.

So why waste all that time and effort on something unless you're sure it can be done right. Besides, if the doctor isn't licensed, there's no one to blame for any harm done, and nobody likes to blame himself.

(The author can be reached at massie@massie.com.)

Remembering Doreen

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST July 6, the Ateneo community held a Mass in remembrance of Dr. Doreen Fernandez. I was privileged to speak about her influence on me as a mentor:

On our first day of freshman English, Doreen asked us to do a short essay on a person. I wrote about my paternal grandfather. I nervously turned it in, wondering if the essay was up to "Ateneo standards."

Two days later she walked in the class and silently handed out reprints of our work. She told us that she had chosen four good essays, and when I looked down at the handouts, to my delight and yes, great pride, mine was the first one there. I looked up with a dopey grin I could not hide and met her gentle smile. At that instant I almost decided to shift my major from the sciences to the arts.

In time I would realize this was Doreen's very effective way of encouraging what she viewed as talent. Throughout the years I had met her other students from other batches who felt the same affirmation that I did.

A column is born

Our friendship was born that day, and cemented after graduation when I became part of the faculty. She urged me to submit a math essay to the INQUIRER, and my column was born. She spoke during my first book launch. She reviewed several of my books.

I have always deemed her the final arbiter of my writing. Last year when I learned I won the Palanca, she was the first person I called after my husband. Over the phone she shared my delight, exclaiming: "I want to read it. E-mail it to me now." So I did, and before long her e-mail came back: "I love the essay—and you! Can I reprint it for my creative writing class?"

At that moment I felt a sense of completion—that two decades after my freshman class, I was still deemed worthy of a reprint in her current classes. Her request for a reprint meant more to me than the Palanca itself.

Eating out

DOREEN

I always looked forward to her invitations to visit new restaurants. A running joke between us would be: She would insist she wanted to be incognito so she could do an honest review, but I would reply that she looked so much like her photo in the paper that she would never get away with it. I don't think she ever did. Every time we ate out, we would be accorded great service—and of course, the best food in the house! I basked in her reflected glory, and always ate more than I should. What's more, she would never let me pay for any meal.

She was there during my wedding. She visited my little boy when he was only a few months old. And being a wise kid, Scott immediately warmed up to her. The picture of their two smiling faces is in our family album. My latest books are dedicated to Doreen and Scott, and in one of her last e-mails she graciously wrote, "I am so honored to be put on the same level as your son." It was the least, Doreen, that I could do.

Spontaneous kindness

I would like to relate a small incident to illustrate her spontaneous kindness—and her wisdom. In the second semester of 1998, I returned to teaching after giving birth and undergoing a major operation. Two successive classes required me to rush from Faura Hall, the parking lot, the covered courts, and on to the second floor of the Com Arts Building in 10 minutes—often under the pouring rain.

Once, panting, I was about to climb the stairs to my class when she emerged from her office and blocked my way. "What are you doing?" She frowned. "You were running. It's raining. You could have slipped."

I was silent, too startled to reply. She looked at me. I had a Coleman in one hand, a dripping umbrella in the other, and a big bag slung over my shoulder. She shook her head. "You shouldn't be rushing at all in your condition. Something might happen to your wound. Come to the office and sit down."

"But I'll be late," was the only thing I could say.

Then she looked me straight in the eye: "Then be late." She sent her secretary to tell my students upstairs that I was catching my breath.

Doreen's wisdom

In her office I got a taste of her wisdom. Doreen was a known workaholic herself, who met deadlines with great ease. But rules, she insisted, if they become absurd, should be broken. What could I do if there were not enough convenient classrooms, if the scheduling was haphazard, if it was the monsoon season? Running and hurting myself certainly would not help. Next time, she said, I have to assert myself when it comes to these things. Sternly, she told me that she did not want to see me running in the rain ever again.

My mother had died several years before, and Doreen's mothering was so comforting, so welcome, that in my harried state, tears came to my eyes. I have been the recipient of much praise, but rarely have I received genuine kindness, with no strings attached.

To top it off, she offered to drive me to and from the class! "Call me and I will pick you up from Faura when it rains." I was always too embarrassed to take her up on this generous offer, but just the thought that I had another option immediately made the whole thing better.

Praying to a saint

When I learned of her death, I felt like I had been stabbed in the gut. I passed the day in a haze, zombie-like through 6:00 p.m.—only to find out upon returning home, that my little boy was running a 40-degree fever.

Through the night, amid the whimpers of a child in pain, my anguished worry over my son and my intense sorrow over Doreen's untimely passing coalesced, so much so that at two in the morning my prayers intermingled, and I found myself pleading, "Doreen, please make my boy well." I repeated this, mantra-like, until I caught myself. We should only pray to God or the saints, shouldn't we?

But somehow it felt right. After all the stringent requirements and strict definitions for sainthood, when we come right down to it, isn't the whole point of a saint someone we mortals could constantly turn to for help?

When she was alive Doreen was one of the few I would often turn to, and I see no reason this should stop now. I am convinced she is in heaven, with her fellow saints, eating great food, reprinting great essays and watching over all of us.

I miss you, Doreen. Say hello to my mom up there. Thank you for everything.

Expert orthodontists at RP convention

WORLD-RENOWNED experts will speak during the 3rd national congress of the Association of Philippine Orthodontists set for Aug. 5 to 7 at the Hotel InterContinental Makati.

One of the keynote speakers is Dr. David C. Hamilton, an advocate of early treatment and growth modification. Hamilton, a past president of the American Association of Orthodontists, has been practicing facial orthopedics for the past 35 years. He has lectured worldwide on early intervention and orthopedic treatment of preschool children who have significant facial dysplasias.

Other invited speakers are Dr. Abou Bakr M. Rabie, an associate professor at the University of Hong Kong and director of the Bone Research Group, and Dr. Rosie Felizardo Mayro, clinical associate professor in orthodontics at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University and dental director and senior orthodontist at the Facial Reconstruction Center of the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania.

The thrust of the congress is total team approach to patient care involving various disciplines such as periodontics, endodontics, orthognatic surgery, implant dentistry, prosthodontics, pediatric dentistry and cleft lip and palate management. Lectures, table clinics and a trade exhibit will be held during the convention.

Contact the secretariat at 815-1122, 892-6106 or visit the website: www.apo.com.ph.

The case of the flood fever

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, M.D.

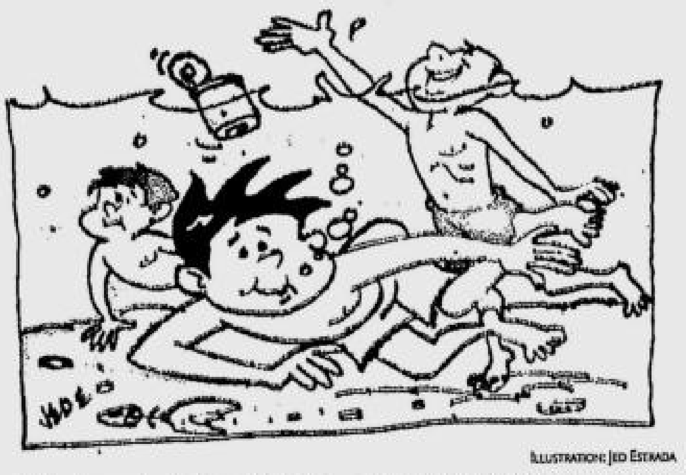


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

REGGIE, a Grade Four student in Manila, was excited when the rain began pouring one Monday morning. He knew that whenever there was a heavy downpour, school would be certainly cancelled because of the floods.

That day was no exception. The rain poured nonstop and floodwaters began to rise. This excited him because he and his friends could turn their place into a large swimming pool.

Many children in Metro Manila are like Reggie. They belong to poor families and see the flooded streets as their seasonal opportunity to enjoy the leisure of swimming. Entrance fees to public swimming pools are beyond their reach and there are no bodies of water in the metropolis that are suitable for swimming. Not even Manila Bay, which has become so polluted.

Little do they realize that swimming in floodwaters exposes them to danger, accidents and a variety of infectious diseases, including leptospirosis.

Flu-like symptoms

Reggie was one of those afflicted with the disease. A few days after swimming in the flood, he began complaining of fever, severe muscle pains and chills. His mother thought it was just a touch of the flu so she gave him paracetamol and wrapped his body in a thick blanket.

The fever went down after a few days only to reappear after a couple of days. Reggie's eyes became reddish, as if he had sore eyes, and he developed stomach pains and nausea. He practically threw up everything he took in.

Leptospirosis is a potentially serious bacterial illness caused by the Leptospira bacteria that is relatively common in the tropics. The bacteria are usually passed on through the urine of infected wild and domesticated animals such as pigs, dogs or rats.

People get leptospirosis through contact with floodwater, wet soil, or vegetation that have been contaminated by the urine of infected animals. The disease is not known to be transmitted from person to person.

Two phases

Leptospirosis may occur in two phases. The first stage is the active Leptospira infection and is called the bacteremic phase. This phase lasts from three to seven days and presents typical flu-like symptoms. The patient may recover for a time but becomes ill again.

If a second phase or the immune phase occurs, it is usually more severe. During this phase, symptoms are milder but meningitis (inflammation of spinal cord and brain tissues) may be present. The patient may have a headache and stiff neck, and may fall into a stupor and coma. Meningitis develops from inflammation caused by toxic substances produced by the body's efforts to destroy the bacteria.

A severe form of leptospirosis, called Weil's syndrome, may also occur during the second stage. This causes continuous fever, sluggishness or stupor, and a reduced ability of the blood to clot, which leads to bleeding within the tissues. Kidney abnormalities may also occur and cause painful urination and blood in the urine. There may also be concomitant liver inflammation.

Because of their poverty, Reggie was not immediately brought to the hospital. He was not diagnosed with leptospirosis until he was already in the immune or complicated phase of the disease.

It was only when Reggie's fever recurred that his mother became worried. She decided to rush her son to a government hospital. She saw a number of patients, most of them children, complaining of the same symptoms as Reggie.

Highest in Metro Manila

According to the 2000 survey conducted by the Field Health Service Information System and National Epidemiology Center, Metro Manila has the highest number of leptospirosis cases in the country.

Reggie was promptly admitted to the hospital. The doctor treated him with antibiotics administered through the veins. The kind-hearted doctors donated their sample medicines to Reggie because his parents could not afford the cost of the drugs.

After a few days at the hospital, Reggie was feeling better. His appetite returned and his fever subsided. He was discharged after a week, but not without a stern warning from his doctor never to swim in floodwaters again.

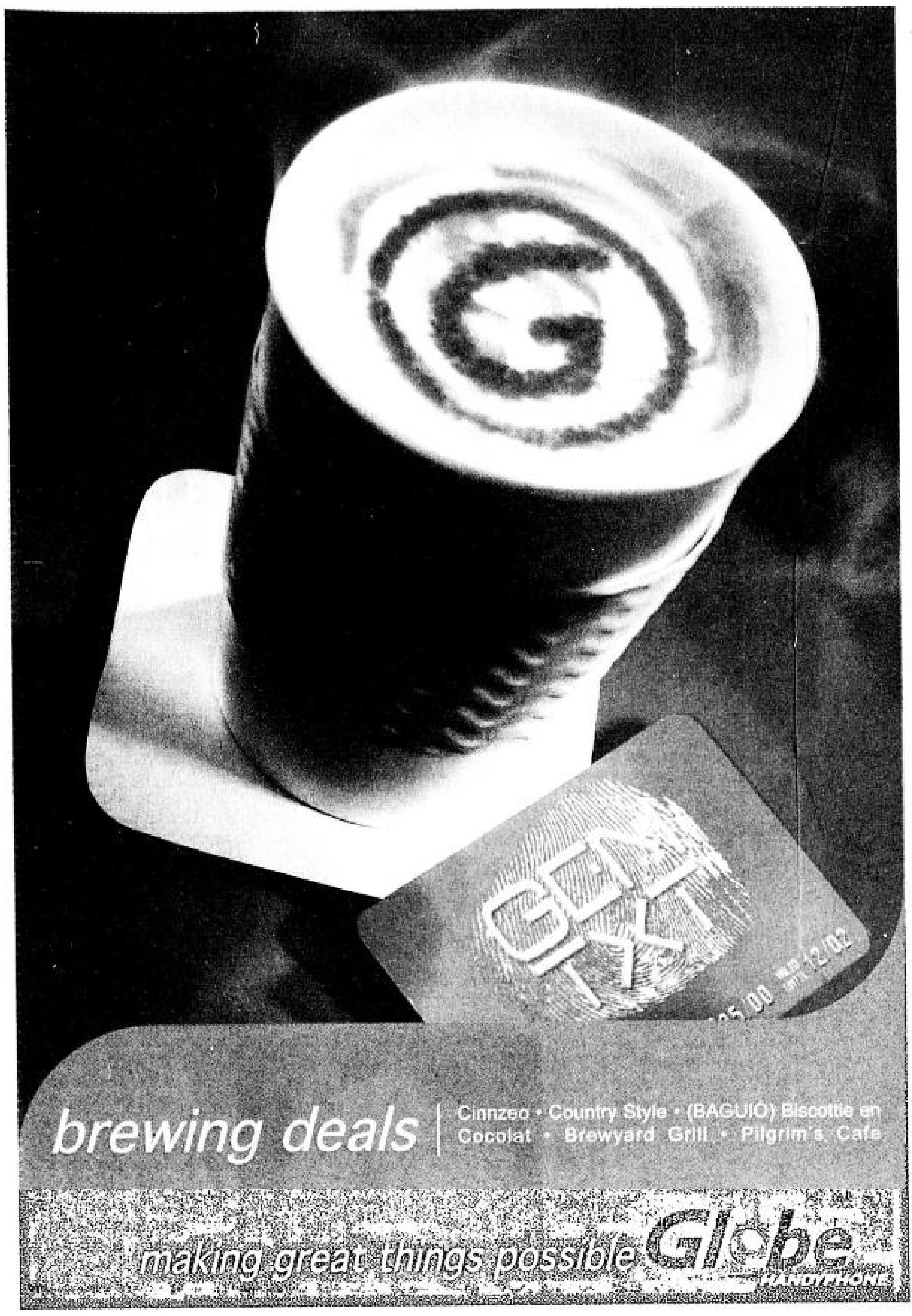
Not only those who wade in floodwaters are exposed to the leptospirosis bacteria. Farmers, miners, animal health care workers, fish farmers and processors, sewage and canal workers, cane harvesters, and soldiers are some of the people who are at an increased risk for leptospirosis.

Activities that put people at high risk of acquiring the disease include taking care of pets, hunting, trail biking, freshwater swimming, rafting, canoeing, kayaking and participating in sports in muddy fields.

The best way to prevent leptospirosis is to minimize or avoid contact with floodwater and mud that might be contaminated with the urine of infected animals. If this is not possible, one should take the necessary precautions like wearing protective clothing, such as waterproof boots or waders.

As for Reggie, being sick with leptospirosis taught him a big lesson not to swim in floodwaters again. When his playmates asked why he got sick, he told them what the doctor had told him to discourage them from swimming in floodwaters.

That scared some of them but some refused to heed his warning and continued to play and swim in floodwaters. They are likely to be among the next leptospirosis patients.



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making great things possible
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Top stars' real names

"I ALWAYS thought Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears were perfect for each other. They are both young, talented and good-looking. Have they really parted ways? Please say it isn't true." —*Susan Dimapilis, Paranaque.*

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Sorry to disappoint you, Susan, but it is true. In the past, we mentioned in this section that romantic dalliances among stars are hard to confirm because they mostly either deny or don't comment when asked. *Unless*, of course, they confirm these stories themselves.

In Britney and the 'N Syncer's case, they officially broke up in March, after a series of he-said, she-said exchanges of denials and confirmations. Soon after, Justin proved that there is life after Britney when he was linked to his group's back-up dancer, Jenna Dewan. *That* relationship proved short-lived though. New York Post's July 12 issue revealed 21-year-old Timberlake's latest squeeze. Hold your breath: she's 36-year-old twice-divorced pop queen Janet Jackson!

They have been seen together in various states of intimacy for the past three weeks, most recently in rapper Missy Elliot's birthday party in Miami. ABC News' July 15 feature page includes the "official word" on the Timberlake-Jackson romance from Justin's spokesperson, Ken Sunshine.

He says, "Last week, People Magazine named Justin the 'most eligible bachelor in the world.' I guess he's fulfilling that role well. But we never, ever comment on his personal life." If you ask us, that's a job well done—sort of deny *and* promote!

"I am a film and entertainment buff. I love your trivia and have been religiously following your column ever since I discovered it (that was your Oscars article) three months ago. Can you feature some of our favorite movie stars' real names?"—*George Limjoco, Nueva Ecija.*

Thank you, we enjoy doing research for our readers. We chanced upon Madison Wellington's piece at eonline.com about reel and real names of celebrities. Seeing how "radically" different these names are, we wonder if these top stars could have reached the pinnacle of success if they didn't change their names! Some of these changes have interesting stories behind them. Judge for yourself:

MEG Ryan's real name is Margaret Hyra, while Jodie Foster (right) was christened Alicia Christian Foster.

Jodie Foster changed her first name, Alicia Christian, after she won her big break in the movies. At age three, "Alicia Christian Foster" was chosen to appear in the now-famous Coppertone ad showing her untanned bare bottom.

Coy Luther Perry III decided to adopt the first name "Luke" after seeing Paul Newman in "Cool Hand Luke" at age five.

Comic sweetheart **Meg Ryan's** birthname is Margaret Hyra, Cary Grant is Archibald Leach, **Anne Bancroft** is Anna Marie Italiano, **Elvis Costello** is Declan Patrick McManus, **Lauren Bacall** is Betty Joan Perske.

"Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman's" Jane Seymour is Joyce Penelope Frankenberg. "Baywatch" and "Melrose Place" babe **David Charvet** is David Haddad.

Woody Allen, Alan Stewart Konigsberg in real life, started using his screen name after he got a job writing for a gossip columnist. **Spike Lee** is Shelton Lee Jackson. Even highly-esteemed directors change their names!

Diane Keaton, who won a Best Actress Oscar for Allen's "Annie Hall," is *really* Diane Hall. Former porn star **Traci Lords** is Nora Louise Kuzma. Supermodel **Elle Macpherson** is Eleanor Gow.

Rock star **Axl Rose** is William Bailey. He started using "Rose" after finding out he was adopted and that his birthname was "Rose." The controversial **Winona Ryder**, Winona Laura Horowitz in real life, renamed herself after a rockstar (Mitch Ryder).

"Batman" star **Michael Keaton** was born "Michael Douglas" in 1951, but when he joined the Screen Actors Guild, there was already a **Michael Douglas** (real name: Michael Demsky), star of "Basic Instinct," among others, and son of screen legend **Kirk Douglas**,—whose real name is Issur Danielovitch Demsky!

Maui Taylor in first bold movie

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE INNOCENT young thing from the TV soap "Anna Kerenina" is now a bold star. After doing mildly sexy scenes in "Tatarin," 19-year-old Maui Taylor does a lot of steamy love scenes onscreen with costars Wendell Ramos and Jordan Hermogenes in "Gamitan." But that's all just acting, because Maui is proud to be a virgin—by choice. She admits that she's had boyfriends, but no, she's never had sex. Why is her virginity so important to her?

"My mom taught me you should always wait until after marriage... It's a sacred thing, you should wait for the right person." But doesn't she find anything sinful about taking her clothes off in front of the camera? "No, *trabaho lang naman po ito, e. Hindi po naman ako ganun* in real life."

Indecent proposal

We asked her if she would sleep with someone if he offered her a million dollars, as Robert Redford did to Demi Moore in "Indecent Proposal"? "No. *Kahit na* one billion *yun*. For me, going to bed with someone is not only physical." So what would make her go to bed with someone? "If I'm married to him. Yes, I will reserve my virginity for the man I marry."

Onscreen, of course, Maui's no longer a virgin. But she does admit feeling awkward the first time she had to kiss Wendell. When she got to the set, she wondered, "What am I supposed to do? "*Di ko alam kung paano ko siya hahalikan . . . kailangan ba* lips to lips *lang, o bukas ang bibig? . . . Si* Wendell *na ang nagdala sa akin...*" Why was she so nervous? Doesn't she have experience with kissing, at least? "*Meron*, but onscreen, on camera, *siya* (Wendell) *yung pinaka*-first kiss ko."

How about working with her other leading man, Jordan, how was that? "For a newcomer, he's very professional. After every love scene *na ginawa namin, parati siyang may katabi na kumot at* towel, *para puwede niyang ibalot sa akin.*"

Maui reiterates that her becoming a sexy star isn't rooted in any financial need— her father, after all, is a successful landscape architect in London. It truly is a career move.

What was her parents' reaction to her move to do bold movies? "My parents are prepared. At first, I admit, they weren't at all. *Pero ngayon, ang mom ko, okay na siya.* My dad finally gave me the go signal. He told me, it's really your decision and I accept it."

TAYLOR. Proud to be a virgin—by choice.

Preparation

How did she prepare for her move to sexy movies? "*Bago ako sumabak*, I needed to watch movies like 'Red Diaries' and 'Warat.'" She insists she didn't watch X-rated movies. Would she say her film, "Gamitan," is a lot sexier than the movies she watched to "inspire" her? "I really can't say it's bolder. It's probably somewhere in the middle."

She says her idols among sexy stars are Assunta de Rossi and Joyce Jimenez—Assunta because she's a great actress, and Joyce because she's got a great body and is beautiful even without makeup. Does she feel any kind of competition with the new sexy stars who keep coming up?

"Sometimes, I look at the new ones. I think, what do they have that I don't? *Ano ba yung pagkakaiba namin?* But no matter what other people say, it's not about how you take your clothes off or how you bare your breasts... it's all in the acting, how well you do it."

Sharon Cuneta, 25 years later

From p. E3

that's in the distant future.

What Sharon is focused on now is on further developing herself as actress and person. In the movies, she's productively used her popularity to cause the production of challenging films like "Madrasta," where her determination was rewarded with a string of acting awards.

Sharon's positive public image has also given her a very profitable "sideline" as a celebrity product endorser. But her best suit at the moment is as a propagator of positive values and a good work ethic.

New direction

This is another new direction for Sharon that we hope she will pay more attention to in the future, like Oprah Winfrey has done on TV in the States.

For the moment, though, there's her 25th anniversary in show biz to celebrate, and Sharon is doing that by way of two concerts next month.

It'll be a good time to join her in being grateful for her exceptional career and all the good things it's brought, and to toast the *next* 25 years—which *could* lead all the way to Malacañang!

Who would have thought that the chronically cute 12-year-old who sang "Mr. DJ" and stuff could become such a vital, focused and giving performer and person? Ms Cuneta, take a well-deserved bow.

GEN TXT
DONITA ROSE
8888
MEMBER 05/00
leisure offers
(CEBU) Marriot Hotel • Waterfront Hotel • (DAVAO) Marco Polo Hotel • (BORACAY) Pink Patio Resort • Pearl of the Pacific • Friday's • Le Soleil de Boracay • (BAGUIO) Concorde Hotel • Golden Pine Hotel
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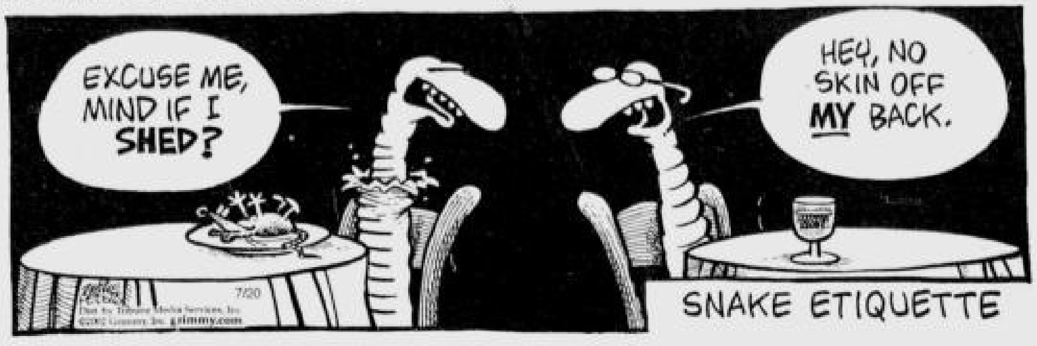
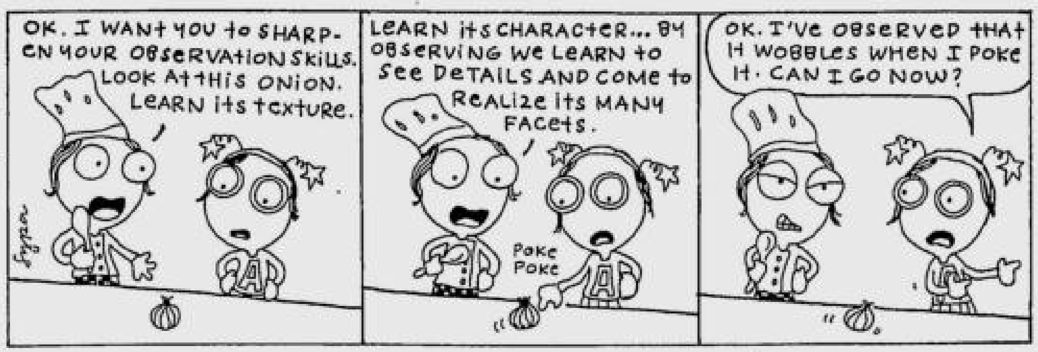
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


EXCUSE ME, MIND IF I SHED?
HEY, NO SKIN OFF MY BACK.
SNAKE ETIQUETTE
7/20
grimmy.com

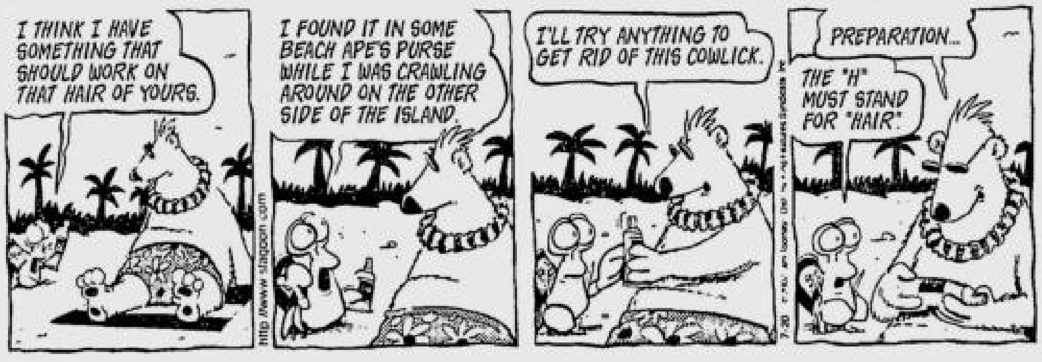
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OK. I WANT YOU TO SHARPEN YOUR OBSERVATION SKILLS. LOOK AT THIS ONION. LEARN ITS TEXTURE.
LEARN ITS CHARACTER... BY OBSERVING WE LEARN TO SEE DETAILS AND COME TO REALIZE ITS MANY FACETS.
POKE POKE
OK. I'VE OBSERVED THAT IT WOBBLES WHEN I POKE IT. CAN I GO NOW?

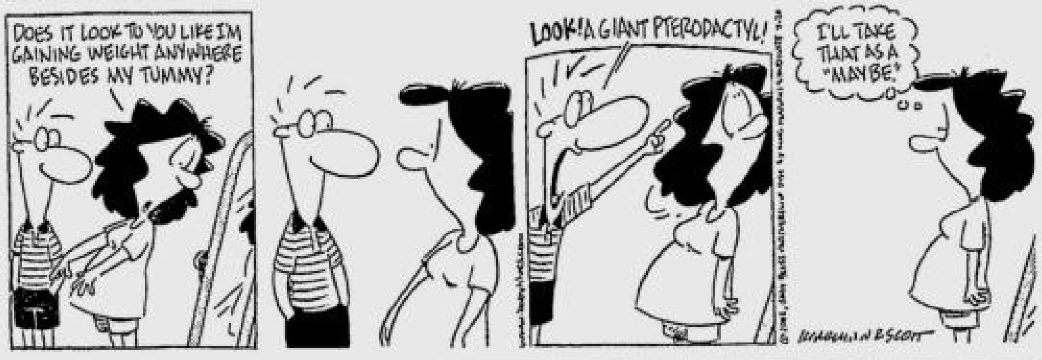
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING THAT SHOULD WORK ON THAT HAIR OF YOURS.
I FOUND IT IN SOME BEACH APE'S PURSE WHILE I WAS CRAWLING AROUND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND.
I'LL TRY ANYTHING TO GET RID OF THIS COWLICK.
PREPARATION...
THE "H" MUST STAND FOR "HAIR".
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DOES IT LOOK TO YOU LIKE I'M GAINING WEIGHT ANYWHERE BESIDES MY TUMMY?
LOOK! A GIANT PTERODACTYL!
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A "MAYBE."
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carlos Santana, Kim Carnes, Elizabeth Dole, Geovanna Amati

Happy Birthday: You should probably separate yourself from things in your past. It's time to reevaluate and start anew. If you don't put yourself first now, you may never do so. If you've been allowing people to take advantage of your generosity and kindness, now is the time to stop. Your numbers are 14, 19, 25, 31, 38, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be well disciplined in your studies and cautious when dealing with others. Do not spend too much on entertainment or part with your cash without good cause.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will do whatever is necessary to advance. Sign up for a seminar that will aid you in accomplishing your goals. Of benefit will be your interest in , foreign culture and education.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will take an active role in any organization you believe in. Your heart and soul are in the right place. Travel and romance figure prominently so go for it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have a tendency to put on weight today if you indulge in sweets and other things you probably shouldn't have. Get involved in a little exercise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your increased energy should be put to good use today. You will be self-confident, aggressive and competitive in all you do. This is a great day to try something new.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your family may not like the company you are keeping today. Your involvement with a new group will lead you in a new direction. You may want to reevaluate your motives.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your outlook will be positive and your ideas plentiful today. You will have an intellectual approach and will do whatever is necessary to pick up knowledge. Greater interaction with neighbors and friends can be expected.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will make unwise financial investments today if you act in haste. Someone who is out to take your money will tempt you. You must be careful of shysters. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A personal confrontation could very well lead to isolation. You will have to compromise and cooperate to smooth things over. You will be prone to exaggeration, which could get you into trouble.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Unusual circumstances will develop involving your personal papers. A problem may arise if you have to deal with a financial partner. Keep your wits about you.

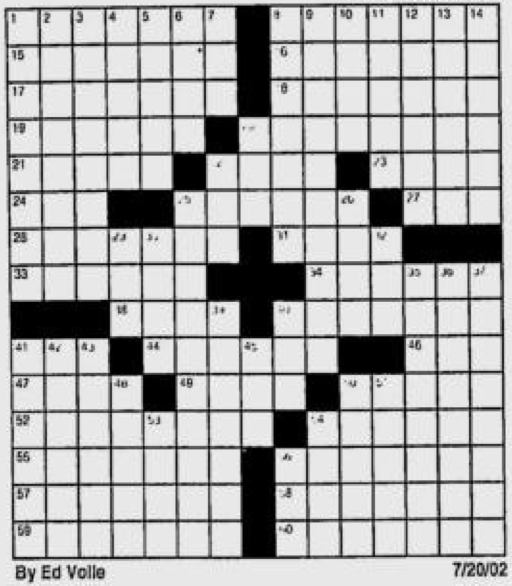
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be searching for excitement today and will latch on to those who offer just that. Your intellect and worldly wisdom will shine through when you interact with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will work relentlessly. Present your ideas and look at your options. If you aren't advancing fast enough, you may want to make changes. You will feel the need to contribute something to your field.

Birthday Baby: Once you set your mind on something, you will be bound and determined to acquire it You are strong-willed, witty and bright

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

7/20/02

ACROSS

1 Shaw play, "Major __"
8 Trelliswork passageway
15 Creamy whites
16 Brought to bear
17 Used purchases
18 Recipient of largesse
19 Hogwash
20 Shallows hazards
21 Didn't spare the rod
22 Scrabble piece
23 Thwack
24 Grow mellower
25 Arrives on stage
27 Put on the feed bag
28 Whole that is more than the sum of its parts
31 Calendar info
33 Test papers
34 Dusting powder
38 Pod group
40 __ non grata
41 Salt Lake hrs.
44 Shifts out of place
46 TV interruptions
47 Touched down
49 Layer of ore
50 Grade over max
52 "Get Smart" star
54 Major commodity
55 Waterfall
56 Certain English schoolboy
57 Long golf club
58 Crescent-shaped opening
59 Turmoils
60 Israel's parliament

DOWN

1 Robin Williams movie, with "The"
2 Some statistics
3 Flushed state
4 Courageous
5 Felt ill
6 Film spool
7 Nincompoop
8 Used a treadle
9 Frees from blame
10 Distress painfully
11 Clutches
12 Canadian capital
13 Ogle
14 "__ Fideles"
20 Command to Fido
22 Blast letters
25 Neighbor of Guatemala
26 Marquee name
29 Light knock
30 Yeses on yawls
32 South African golfer Ernie
35 Anthracite mines
36 Move with a wavelike motion
37 "Thais" composer
39 Unit equal to one ampere per volt
40 Confine
41 Bovine disease
42 "Citizen Kane" co-star Everett
43 December glitter
45 Pluto
48 Unspoken
50 Expiate
51 Window parts
53 Challenge
54 Astonish
56 Large deer

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	P	I	C	■	H	T	M	L	■	R	S	V	P
O	H	A	R	A	■	A	S	E	A	■	E	T	A	S
R	O	Y	A	L	F	L	U	S	H	■	M	U	S	S
T	A	U	■	L	O	I	N	S	■	C	A	D	E	T
A	L	P	S	■	N	D	A	K	■	O	P	P	■	■
■	■	■	T	O	T	E	M	I	S	M	■	O	P	S
S	O	F	A	R	■	■	I	T	E	M	■	K	I	A
R	H	U	B	A	R	B	■	S	T	U	D	E	N	T
T	I	L	■	N	O	E	S	■	■	T	E	R	S	E
A	O	L	■	G	E	S	T	A	T	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	H	O	E	■	T	E	R	R	■	K	O	H	L
M	U	O	N	S	■	O	R	D	E	R	■	P	E	A
O	N	U	S	■	I	W	O	O	F	A	K	I	N	D
W	I	S	E	■	W	H	I	P	■	M	I	N	C	E
S	T	E	T	■	A	D	D	S	■	S	N	E	E	R

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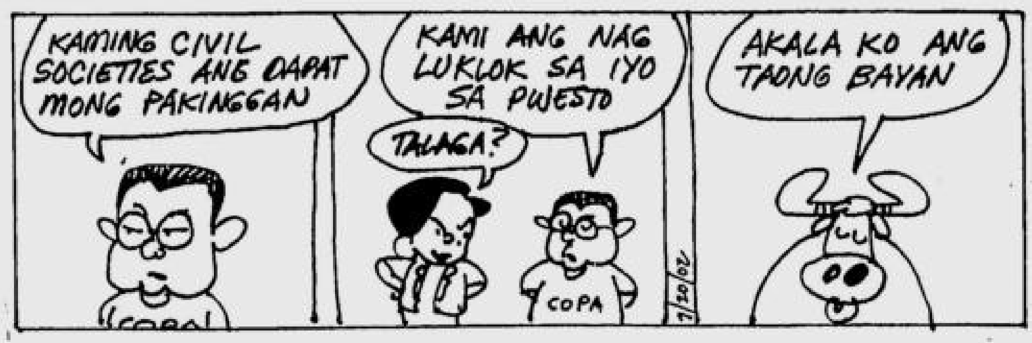
7/20/02

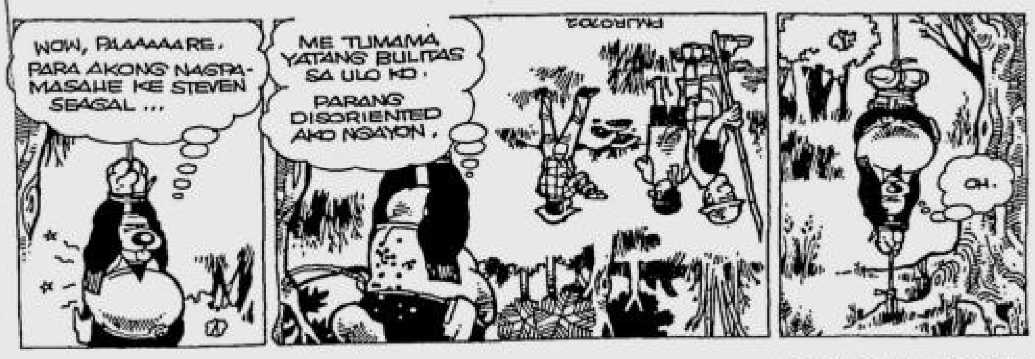
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAMING CIVIL SOCIETIES ANG DAPAT MONG PAKINGGAN
COPA
KAMI ANG NAG LUKLOK SA IYO SA PUWESTO
TALAGA?
COPA
7/20/02
AKALA KO ANG TAONG BAYAN

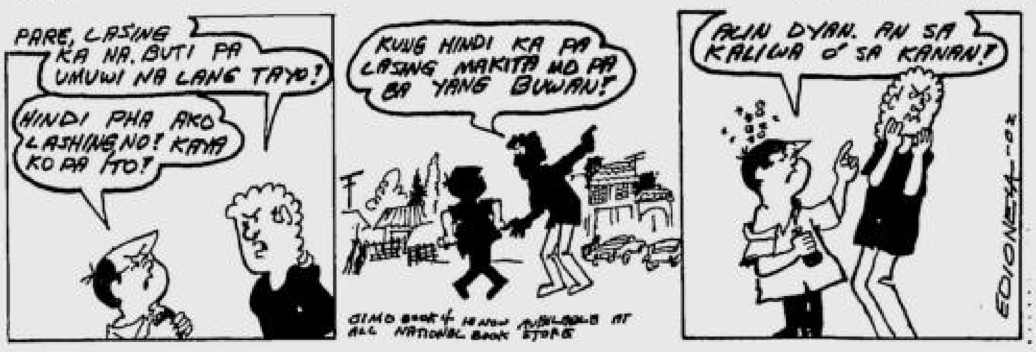
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


WOW, PAAAAARE. PARA AKONG NAGPA-MASAHE KE STEVEN SEAGAL ...
ME TUMAMA YATANG BULITAS SA ULO KO. PARANG DISORIENTED AKO NGAYON.
OH.

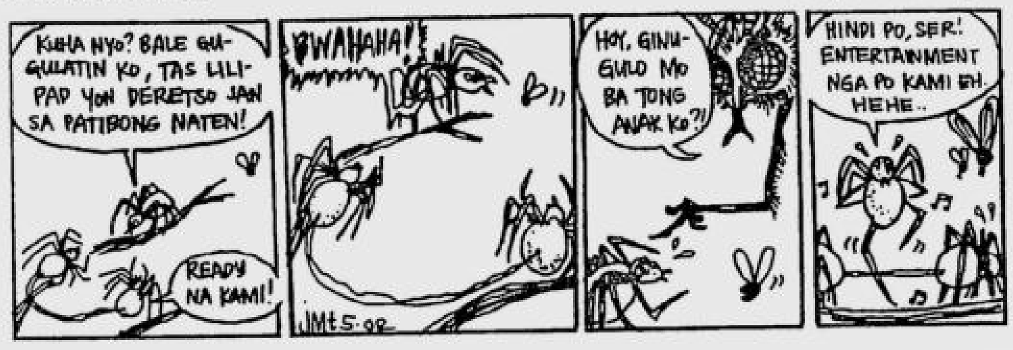
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARE, LASING KA NA. BUTI PA UMUWI NA LANG TAYO!
HINDI PHA AKO LASHING NO! KAYA KO PA ITO!
KUNG HINDI KA PA LASING MAKITA MO PA BA YANG BUWAN!
SIMO BOOK 4 IS NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL NATIONAL BOOK STORE
ALIN DYAN. AN SA KALIWA O SA KANAN!
EDIONELA

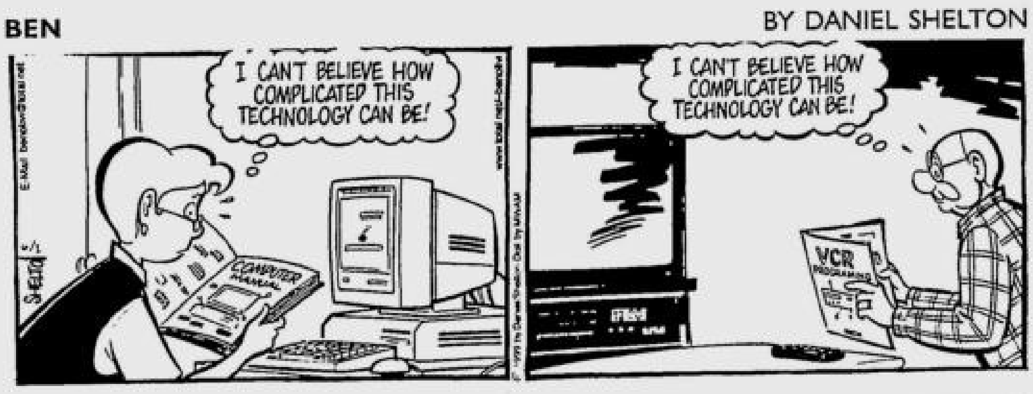
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUHA NYO? BALE GUGULATIN KO, TAS LILIPAD YON DERETSO JAN SA PATIBONG NATEN!
READY NA KAMI!
BWAHAHA!
JMt5.02
HOY, GINUGULO MO BA TONG ANAK KO?!
HINDI PO, SER! ENTERTAINMENT NGA PO KAMI EH. HEHE..

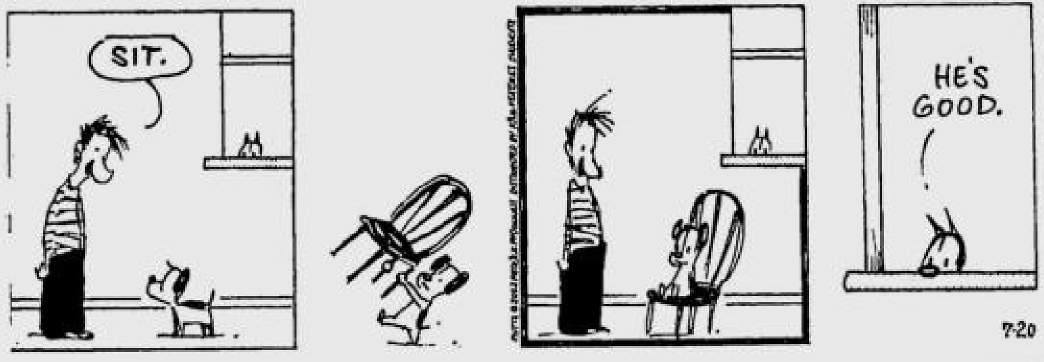
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW COMPLICATED THIS TECHNOLOGY CAN BE!
COMPUTER MANUAL
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW COMPLICATED THIS TECHNOLOGY CAN BE!
VCR PROGRAMMING

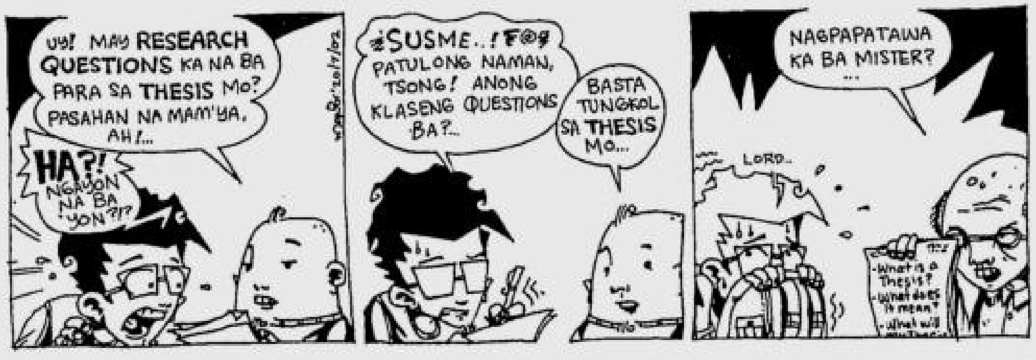
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SIT.
HE'S GOOD.
7·20

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY! MAY RESEARCH QUESTIONS KA NA BA PARA SA THESIS MO? PASAHAN NA MAM'YA, AH!...
HA?! NGAYON NA BA 'YON?!?
¿SUSME..! F@# PATULONG NAMAN, TSONG! ANONG KLASENG QUESTIONS BA?..
BASTA TUNGKOL SA THESIS MO...
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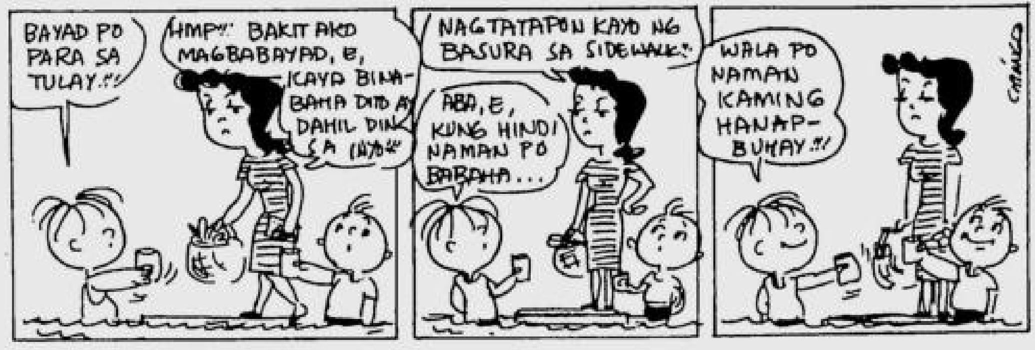
LORD..
-What is a Thesis? -What does it mean?

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO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ABA, E, KUNG HINDI NAMAN PO BABAHA...
WALA PO NAMAN KAMING HANAP-BUHAY.!!
CHIONGLO

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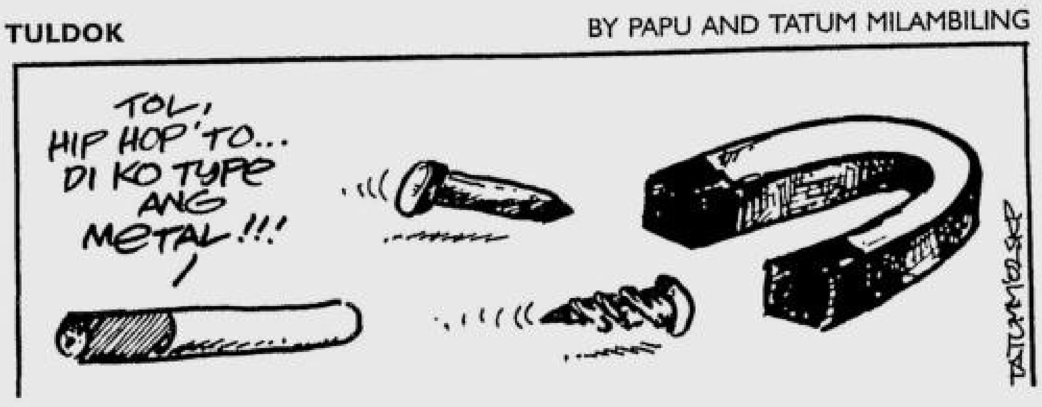
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TATUMMOLSKI

Meet MTRCB's new chair, Mari-len Dinglasan

By Edmund L. Sicam

DINGLASAN. Plays the bass guitar in an all-female band.

WHO is Mari-len Dinglasan and why are some movie and TV producers afraid of her? Well, she's the new chairman of the Movie and Television Review and Classification-Board, the body that can stamp the much-dreaded "X" rating on a movie or TV program, which means it can't be viewed by the public.

Since not much is known about her except the fact that she's an active member of Couples for Christ and a classmate of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, there are apprehensions that she will be overly strict with their productions.

Fears

We spoke to Ms Dinglasan recently to find out if these fears had any basis. First of all, when producers talk about a strict person, we are reminded of a former neighbor, an elementary school teacher, who was a stern-looking old maid with no sense of humor whatsoever. She was quite strict with her students and used a stick to discipline them.

That's not the impression we got of the MTRCB chief. To begin with, she's no old maid. She's married to lawyer Adolfo "Pompoy" Dinglasan, with whom she has four children—Rafa, 34; Roanna, 31; Bianca, 28; and JT, the youngest, who is 11 years old, and came 17 years after the birth of their third child. She's quick to point out that their *bunso* was no accident but a miracle child "who gives me so much joy."

Ms Dinglasan initially wanted to be a doctor so she took up BS Biology at the St. Bonaventure University, Oleane, New York. However, when it was time to work on an MD degree, she says, "I got another kind of MD, a 'marriage degree' from my husband." The newlyweds moved to Capiz, where she immersed herself in agribusiness concerns.

Her quest for self-improvement did not stop. She went to school to get training in business and professional management. This time, she was in school not to get a degree, but information to help her in running their firms. The Dinglasans stayed in Capiz for some 20 years until they moved back to Manila when their children had to go to school here.

Bass guitar

We also discovered that Ms Dinglasan plays the bass guitar in an all-female band. ("I was the biggest in the group so I was assigned the bass guitar.") She is the proud owner of a prized 1962 Fender guitar, a collector's item, but she's more interested in playing the instrument than in its monetary value.

She and three classmates—Nenette Jacinto (sister of RJ), Celuch Araneta-Manahan (wife of actor-lawyer Bonggoy Manahan) and Lulu Lopez-Katigbak—were into horseback riding when they were in high school. Since combos were then in vogue, the four decided to form their own group, the Pony Debs. They were the sister combo of RJ and the Riots.

During the silver jubilee of Assumption, the group got together to play again and received positive feedback from the audience. Since then, they've been playing at concerts, many of them with RJ. Just yesterday, the Pony Debs joined RJ in a concert at Edsa Shangri-La. She looks forward to rehearsals because that's when they can temporarily put their problems aside and reminisce about the good old days.

The Pony Debs, according to her, were a clone of the Ventures so they did a lot of instrumental numbers. They also played the hits of Elvis Presley and the Beatles. Today, they've added vocalists to the group, one of them a pediatrician and the other a piano teacher with a master's degree in music.

Classmates

Ms Dinglasan and GMA were indeed classmates from grade school to high school at Assumption. However, when they were in high school, there were two campuses. She enrolled in Herran (Pedro Gil) while GMA went to San Lorenzo Village. Despite being enrolled in separate campuses, Ms Dinglasan says, "We were still very close because we belonged to the same batch. We would get together quite often. She would watch the Pony Debs when we performed."

She remembers frequenting Malacañang when the late Diosdado Macapagal was the president. "Tita Eva (the First Lady) would invite us to perform native dances during state dinners, and she would always reserve two tables for Gloria's friends." Even then, Ms Dinglasan recalls that GMA was already serious about her studies. *(To be concluded)*

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What videos do members of the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council like?

BEING a member of the MTV and Penshoppe Youth Council certainly has its benefits: an opportunity to help the less fortunate, the prestige of being ambassadors of goodwill for great brands like MTV, Penshoppe, Cali and I-Academy, etc.

Favorites

How do Council members relax and chill out after their hectic schedule? MTV had a light chat with them recently at National Sports Grill and asked them what they did when they got home. Well, what else? Watch music videos, of course! And these are their favorites:

Brad Turvey—"I like 'Cry' by Mandy Moore. I think she's awesome. I like the Gorillaz' video 'Clint Eastwood.' The animation is so cool! And 'Stan' by Eminem. I like that because it depicts real life."

Terence Koa—"For some reason, I really like that video of Britney Spears. 'I'm Not A Girl, Not Yet A Woman.' The shot where the camera just goes around her while she's on a cliff—I think they took it from a helicopter or something—it's an amazing shot."

Dannielle Mendoza—"'Overprotected' by Britney Spears. What a cool dance sequence! We use that video to copy her dance steps (Dannielle is part of her school's dance org.)."

Nichole Schulze—"I like the one of Dave Matthews. And Shakira's 'Underneath Your Clothes.' She is really talented!"

Kelly Misa—"Definitely J.Lo! I love 'Ain't It Funny!' It's sooo cool! And of course, how can I forget—Enrique Iglesias' 'Hero'—it's cheesy but I really like it!"

Must-watch

Marco Lobregat—"Hmmm . . . the first thing that comes to mind is Sophie Ellis Bextor's 'Murder On the Dancefloor.' That's pretty darn good. And oh man, she's pretty! And oh yeah, John Mayer's 'No Such Thing.' Definitely a must-watch!"

Uriah Vanden Bos—"No question, Brain McKnight's 'Back at One'—it has a story to it and I'm really touched by the words of the song!"

Leila Lee Kuzma—"What's Love' by Ashanti and Ja Rule. And 'Cry' by Mandy Moore. I like the song because that's the type of music I listen to and the lyrics are meaningful.

Kathleen Hilario—"Shakira's 'Whenever, Wherever.' She's a new voice, of Hispanic heritage. Her beat's pretty catchy and she exudes girl power and confidence—she knows what a girl wants in her life!"

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Welcome to Christopher Durang's quirky universe

By Leia Torre

(Conclusion)

PLAYWRIGHT Christopher Durang's parents were strict Catholics, and this influence has shaped how he sees and interprets things.

This is most clearly observed in the play "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," which is the story of a nun who boasts of the virtuousness of her charges, an example of which is little Thomas, who can answer virtually any question about religion and who can recite the Ten Commandments on cue.

Former students

Her righteous monologue is interrupted, however, by four of her former students, who have since grown up and have become dissatisfied with everything that she has taught them. They are the very antithesis of Sister Mary Ignatius' uncompromising principles, and they have come to detest what they have been taught, because these lessons have not been of any use to them in their times of need.

Durang writes in a cynical style, and his works may shock those who are of a more conservative bent. His other play, "Titanic," is quite matter-of-fact in talk about intercourse between parents and their children, after which the children contrive to murder their parents.

Macabre and funny

It is quite macabre, but funny in its own way.

"Beyond Therapy" is the most lighthearted play in this book. It tells of a man and a woman who are almost perfect for each other, and about their very wacky therapists. The man is bisexual, and the woman cannot seem to make up her mind about what she wants.

The result is a terrific mix-up, which gets even more hilarious once the man's male lover, the male lover's mother, the therapists, and a waiter in the restaurant get included in the brew.

Open mind

The important thing to remember in reading this book is to have an open mind. Although most of the situations depicted here seem extreme and not likely to occur in real life, it is this far-out element that makes these plays funny.

Lessons are also imparted between the lines, although some of them may not be what some parents would like to teach their children. Nevertheless, these plays show us the author's quirky view of the world, and it is fascinating to see that he can find humor even in the most desperate of situations.

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Shirley MacLaine reflects on life in Hollywood

By Ronald G. Mangubat

IT'S a mad world, but for award-winning actress turned best-selling author Shirley MacLaine, life in Hollywood is good for the soul.

Reflections

"You learn to appreciate and protect it more than anywhere else in the world," she exclaims. After seven books delving on metaphysics, politics and cosmic forces, MacLaine writes about her own reflections on her life as an actress in the book, "My Lucky Stars: A Hollywood Memoir."

The result is a deep and probing study on the biggest entertainment business in the world—its culture, dynamics, systems, power, joys, pains and rewards.

In 17 chapters that brim with honesty, MacLaine dishes up revelations and insights that would surprise even the most avid followers of Hollywood happenings. This is because her memoir is filled with inside stories of celebrities, behind-the-scenes anecdotes and other spicy Tinseltown news tidbits.

But unlike tabloid gossips, MacLaine elevates her stories with searing insights on human nature, psychology and even ancient wisdom in her attempt to make sense out of the glamorous imbroglio that is Hollywood.

She described the difficult people that she has worked with, like Debra Winger and Anthony Hopkins, but does so without malice, sarcasm or judgement. Instead, she draws out lessons learned from her unpleasant experiences and considers them as part of her lifelong growth.

Candor

MACLAINE. Believe it or not, stardom can be good for the soul.

With her usual brilliant candor, the star of unforgettable films like "Terms of Endearment," "Guarding Tess," and "Postcards from the Edge" recalls her entry into the celluloid world (together with her brother, Warren Beatty) and described how she slowly evolved from an insecure, naive young girl into a sensitive and sophisticated woman.

In three revealing chapters, she tells about her friendships with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, and how she saw Sinatra dealing with the Mob and excessively abusing himself on food, tobacco and alcohol.

She writes thumbnail sketches of her numerous co-stars in her more than 30 films—from Marlon Brando, Nicolas Cage, and Barbra Streisand to Julia Roberts, Olympia Dukakis and Jack Nicholson. She describes Elizabeth Taylor as a "milkmaid, Jewish mother and queen of the jewels," while she praises Robert Duvall as "the best actor in the world." MacLaine also honestly tells about her wildly unconventional marriage to and eventual divorce from Steve Parker, and her affairs with Yves Montand, Robert Mitchum and an unknown Latin film grip.

Search

In the midst of all the glitter, gigantic egos, ruckus and Hollywood controversies, MacLaine began an earnest search for her own self because, as she explains, "that was the only guarantee against loneliness in Hollywood." She went around the world and studied spirituality, mysticism, reincarnation, Buddhism and all sorts of esoteric sciences.

Much of this is described in her other books, and that's why many entertainment luminaries began calling her "Hollywood's cosmic or celestial angel." She continued to learn lessons from the opposite worlds of show business and spirituality and found balance and wisdom in both.

It is, in fact, this search for self-knowledge that is the thesis of MacLaine's book. She explains that in the entertainment business, people fashion unusual pictures of the world they live in, in accordance with how they see themselves.

She writes: "It is easy to commit millions of dollars to violent pictures if we feel violence within ourselves. Altering our perspective of the world will only come from alterations within us."

MacLaine adds that one important lesson that Hollywood taught her was that talent was up and down, and bought and sold, but as long as one disallows his soul in the bargain, he'll be okay. Hence, the need to be soul-vigilant.

Cocktail

While the book touches on the soul and spirituality, it is far from being didactic. It's a cocktail of wit, humor and an almost aching quest fro meaning. Anyone who has worked in the entertainment business can easily identify with her stories—the movie sets then and now, acting, aging, director and actor's tantrums, and even sex during location shoots.

MacLaine tells all this in a confessional fashion. Readers will have a virtual feel of life inside the confines of the colossal studios and the enclaves of Beverly Hills, and will marvel at how MacLaine has been able to remember her Hollywood stories, some of which happened almost half a century ago!

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SATURDAY*Special*

Colin Hanks and Schuyler Fisk come into their own

BEING the offspring of famous celebrities may be tough, but if you decide to pursue the same career, it's a lot easier if some of the parents' talent rubs off.

HANKS AND FISK. Both young stars have famous movie-star parents.

Sweethearts

Take Colin Hanks (son of Oscar-winning superstar Tom Hanks) and Schuyler Fisk (daughter of Oscar-winning actress Sissy Spacek and director Jack Fisk), for example. They play high school sweethearts in "Orange County," a new comedy about a Southern California high school senior and his relentless pursuit to get into Stanford University.

Hanks and Fisk discuss what they loved about making the movie, and how they really want to make it on their own—even though they have famous movie-star parents.

What drew you to "Orange County?"

Hanks: It was one of the best scripts I'd read in a long time. It was smart, funny and heartfelt and was everything that constitutes a good movie. I read through it fast and enjoyed it. The script was so well written, it made some social statements I thought needed to be said.

Such as?

Hanks: That no matter how much you try, you cannot get away from pop and teen culture. As much as it is about this kid who wants to get into Stanford, it's also this kid's journey and his first steps into adulthood that normally come after you've graduated.

Important part

He realizes that everything he's been trying to run away from is actually an important part of who he is and should be cherished and not pushed aside.

Fisk: The script was so good, so funny. I really wanted to be a part of it. I loved the character of Ashley and identified with her. I think the heart of the film is the relationship between Shaun [Hanks' character] and Ashley, and I loved that.

What was your college acceptance experience like?

Hanks: I got rejected. A lot. I went to the two schools I got accepted to [Chapman University and Loyola Marymount, both in Southern California]. When I got the packet from Chapman, I didn't know it was an acceptance letter.

Three weeks later, I got into Loyola and I was like, "All right! First school I got into!" Them my college counselor asked me if I'd heard from Chapman and I said yeah, they'd sent me a packet but it had only some phone card stuff in it.

Letter of acceptance

They said, are you sure that's not the letter of acceptance? So I checked and sure enough, there was the letter. I had no idea.

Fisk: I'm applying to some schools now. Emerson, Brown, Yale . . .

How was it interacting with all the talented people on the set?

Hanks: Everyone was so laid back and pleasant to work with. They were all so humble and just wanted to do a good job. We were able to watch this varied group of actors that have spanned generations of comedy and drama and perform with them; it was better than any acting class.

Different

Fisk: They sort of taught me that there is no *right* way to act. Everyone was so different and wonderful. It was a given that I respected them so much, but to get that respect in return was so cool.

Then there's Jack Black. My God, he was funny in this. How many takes did you have to do before you stopped laughing?

Hanks: I keep apologizing to Jack to this day because I have a feeling that some of Jack's best work here—and he's so great in the movie—was ruined by us because we couldn't stop laughing.

Anything truly outrageous happen on the set?

Hanks: Try working on frat row at USC all night long. As the partying went on, it got progressively worse.

Fisk: They were throwing furniture out of the windows and yelling "Stanford sucks!" It was quite an experience.

Working with director Jake Kasdan, did you guys band together, coming from similar backgrounds?

Fisk: I think the thing we all had in common was we loved the script and really wanted to make a good movie.

And the fact that you are the progeny of pretty famous parents never came up?

Hanks and Fisk: [at the same time] We hardly ever talked about it.

Fisk: Except when we started doing the interviews and then we compared stories. I'd hear Colin talk about his dad and it was interesting.

It's true. We want to know because you come from such great lineage, and it shows in your acting abilities. Colin, you channeled your dad a couple of times in the movie, especially when you got upset.

COLIN/ p. F2

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Colin Hanks and Schuyler Fisk . . .

JOHN Lithgow leads the cast of veteran stars in "Orange County."

From p. F1

Fisk: Totally! When he started yelling at his mom [played by Catherine O'Hara], it was uncanny.

Hanks: I guess I can't help it. I'm not trying to, I swear . . .

Fisk: Oh, you are so trying to. . .

Hanks: You're right, I am so trying to!

If you hadn't grown up around the business, do you think you'd have chosen acting?

Fisk: I think it was inevitable. I was always doing theater for as long as I can remember. I just love it. I feel comfortable around sets . . . it's familiar to me. But I did have a really normal childhood.

Plays

Hanks: It's been something I've always really enjoyed doing. I did plays in grade school and everything but it wasn't until college when I had to decide [in a booming voice] What I Wanted To Do The Rest Of My Life. I wasn't really good at anything else, acting was the only thing . . .

Fisk: That's horrible, Colin. You know you're good at other things.

Hanks: I mean, in terms of academics. Acting is the only thing that comes naturally to me. It was the one thing I knew and felt I was comfortable doing and was reasonably good at. Basically, it's like playing with toys, playing make-believe when you were a little kid.

Would you guys ever like to work with your parents?

Fisk: We each have very different answers to that question. I would love to work with my mom. We are very close and have talked about it. We know we could do one movie together and that would be it. We have a natural chemistry together. She's like, "Schuyler, I want to push your buttons."

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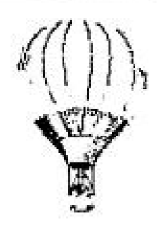

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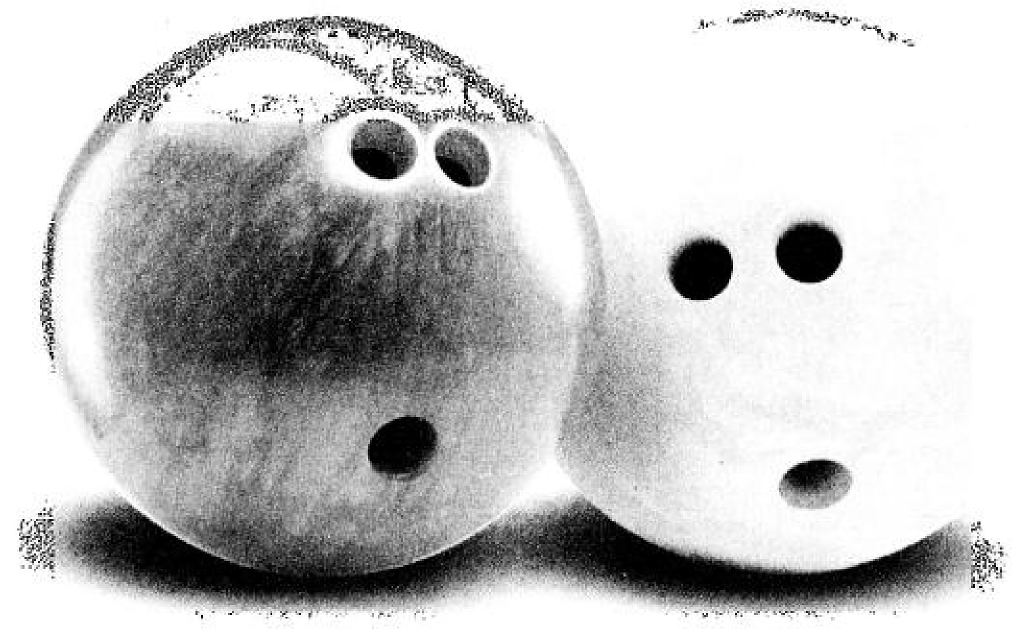

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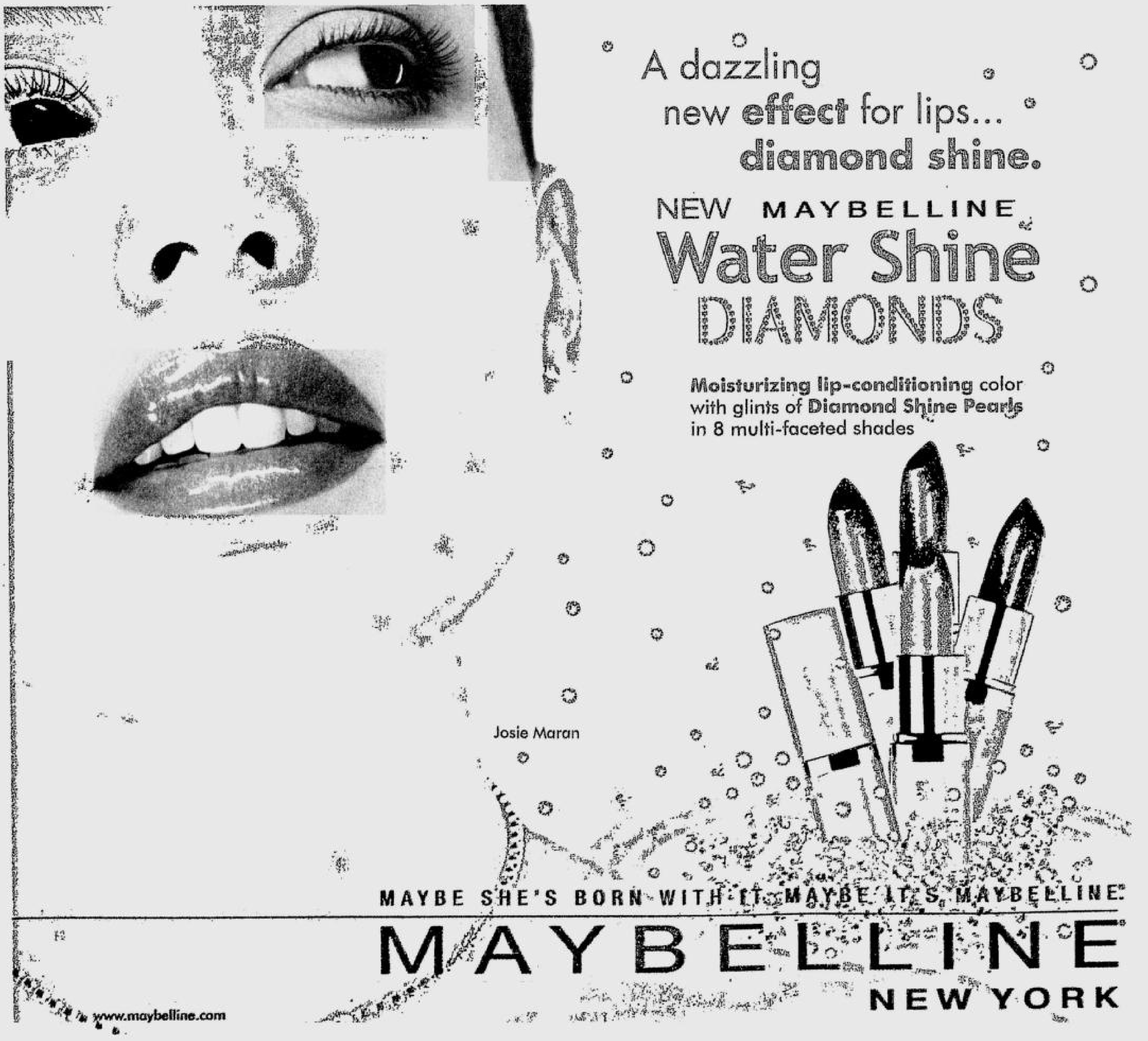

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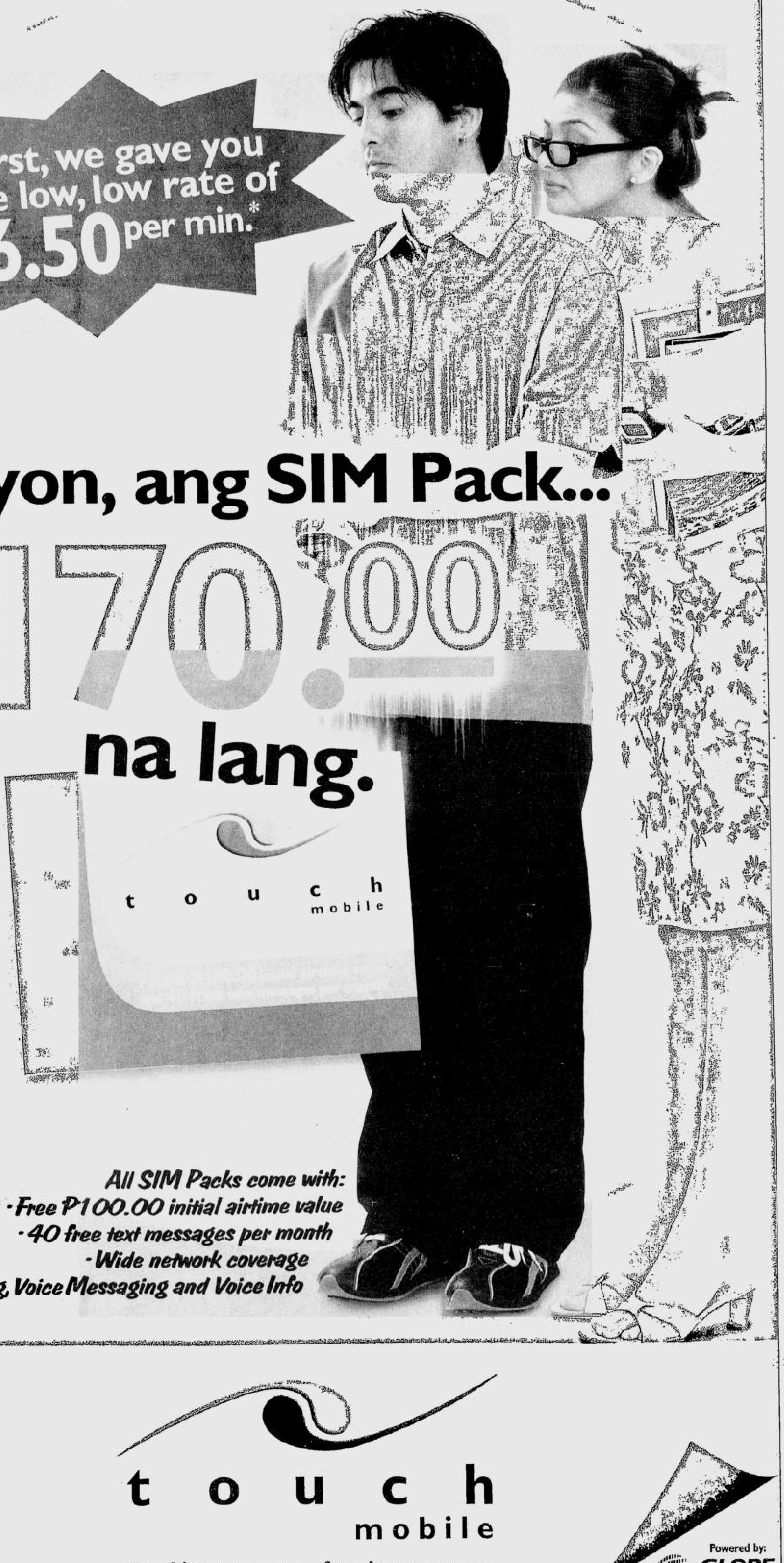

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SATURDAY*Special*

'Men in Black II' takes in $24.4M

"MEN IN BLACK II." No. I for the second straight week.

LOS ANGELES—"Men in Black II" continues to rake in the green, grossing $24.4 million to remain the No. 1 movie for a second straight weekend.

Tom Hanks' mob tale "Road to Perdition" debuted in second place with $22.1 million, though the film played in only half as many theaters as "Men in Black II."

Other new movies

Among other new movies, the dragon story "Reign of Fire" had the best opening, taking in $15.6 million for third place.

The top 10 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Nielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "Men in Black II," Sony, $24.4 million, 3,611 locations,

MEN/ p. G2

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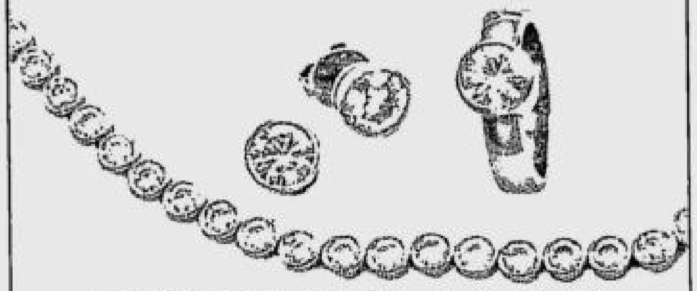

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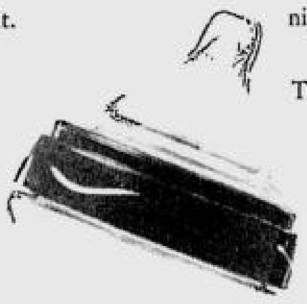

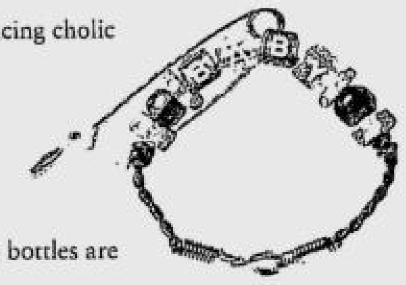

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Auditions for 'Lion King' musical set

DISNEY Theatricals Production (Australia) and Dong Alegre announce open auditions for the male and female roles in the Australian production of "The Lion King" set to open in Sydney in October 2003.

Applicants should have strong singing voices. Some dance movement experience is preferred, but not required.

Registration is on July 26, 27, and 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the GSIS Theater Rehearsal Hall at the GSIS Headquarters bldg., Financial Center, Roxas blvd., Pasay City. Bring bio-data and headshots.

Auditions are set on July 29, 30, 31 and Aug. 1 at the GSIS Theater. Applicants should prepare a contemporary pop/rock song that displays his/her vocal range. Bring music scores/sheets to auditions. A pianist will be provided.

This musical version of the animated film features music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice, like the hits "Circle of Life" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." For inquiries, call 524-6454.

Hallmark film

On July 21, the film on view at 9 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel is "My Friend Joe." It's about an awkward boy who can't find true friends until he meets a cool kid who can do awesome stunts on his mountain bike.

But it turns out that his new friend has a deep, dark secret: he's a she! She's hiding her true identity because she's from a circus. Lead players include Shuyler Fisk, Joel Grey and Pauline Melynn.

Focus on Olivier Martinez

Charismatic French star Olivier Martinez gets his big break on the international film scene in Adrian Lyne's "Unfaithful," where he shares stellar billing with Richard Gere and Diane Lane.

Martinez plays the ladies' man with whom Lane's character has a tempestuous affair, which plunges her marriage with Gere into a tragic tailspin.

The young French actor finds his character, Paul, a fascinating challenge to portray. "As I see him, he isn't your usual lover-villain. He's an innocent, he really doesn't know what is going to happen, and he has no control over his future.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"He's like a child, he's free—too free, in fact. He's not a manipulator, but he *is* a game player!"

'Huwag Mangamba'

In the early 1990s a small recording of Jesuit hymns was made and released on cassette. It was meant to be played at retreats.

The cassette was "Narito Ako." It featured compositions by Fathers Eddie Hontiveros, Fruto Ramirez, Nemy Que and Manoling Francisco.

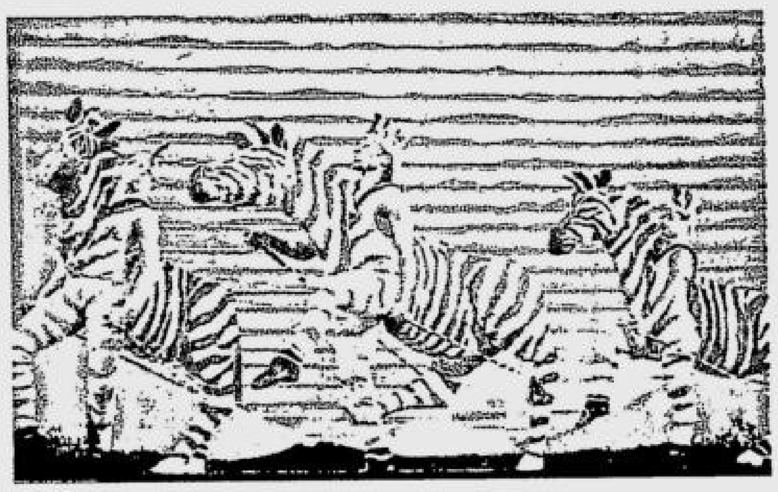
In 2001, the Jesuit Ministry released a breakthrough album by folk singer Noel Cabangon. "Pasakalye," Cabangon's first solo release.

Now, Jesuit Communications is proud to present Cabangon's "Huwag Mangamba: Mga Awit ng Pagtatagpo."

"Huwag Mangamba" features most of the songs from the original "Narito Ako" album, plus several additional recordings, remade as only Cabangon can, mixing folk guitars, classical strings, rock and jazz voices, and even operatic singing.

"Huwag Mangamba" will be launched with a concert on Aug. 4 at the Riverbanks Mall in Marikina City, right after the 4 p.m. Sunday mass.

MARTINEZ. French actor on the verge of international stardom.



"THE LION KING." The musical's new Australian production will open in Sydney next year.

Signs

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

FOR the longest time, I've been wishing to be slim again. And, what do you know? I've lost 15 pounds in 20 days—and still losing. Is God telling me something?

Message

Do you believe in signs? Do you believe that God speaks to us in so many ways, but we just don't recognize His voice? Do you believe the Lord has a message even in the darkest human experience that He allows to happen in our lives?

For the past weeks, I've been deep in thought. With my uncompromisingly restricted physical activities these days, I have very little choice but get down to the important business of thinking, right? That's a sign already right there. If I didn't have this problem with my stones, I'd have been here and there and everywhere, doing everything but think.

So now, everyday from the moment I wake up in the morning to the time I close my eyes to sleep at night, I think. The central theme of my thoughts is simple enough: What do I do now with the rest of my life?

Excited

After my operations, I was very excited to go back to my daily "Careful, Careful" program on dzMM. As part of my preparation, I pored through the entertainment pages of all the tabloids, broadsheets and magazines. I marked the items I wanted to comment on, the ones that needed follow-up and verification, and the stars I needed to interview.

Suddenly, it occurred to me, I've been doing this for sooo long now. In fact, for more years than I care to count. Isn't life a bore if you're still doing the same thing you've been doing forever? There must be more to life than feasting on others' woes!

(Wow! I'm developing a conscience! Well, not that I didn't have it before—but it's hurting me now.)

Before, my standard line for greeting people was the trite, "*O kumusta na?*" Today, I greet friends with, "*Nagpa*-check-up *ka na ba?*" Or I casually take note of their weight or the color of their skin. They usually take it as a joke but they're not laughing.

And I'm not joking. I mean, had I gone for an executive check-up every six months or every year, my renal problem would have been addressed before it got worse.

(At this point that I'm discerning what to make of my life, isn't it clear that God wants me to be active? But, active in what?)

Visits

My regular visits to the dialysis center have exposed me to conditions far worse than my own. My heart bleeds—but it bleeds no longer for me but for others. Like, last week, I wrote about some of the patients whose quality of life has been severely reduced by their ailment. I got a call shortly after that piece came out. Somebody wants to sponsor for life the dialysis treatment of two patients of my choice.

(Now, this a marvelous affirmation directly from the heart of God! He is clearly pointing me towards a particular direction.)

Finally, I got to talk with my three sisters in the US. They called from New York where Nats and Annette have made successful careers and comfortable lives. Pat had to drive all the way from Florida just so the three of them could reconnect with me and with each other. That call must have cost a fortune. But we didn't care. Family is more precious.

(God is using my condition to make our family closer than ever. He is bridging the distance—not just the physical but the distance of hearts as well.)

Annette, the dietitian, told me I could call on her anytime I had questions about food, diet and nutrition. Nats, the shrink, didn't miss a beat. She said she would always be available if I needed anything psychiatric! Pat is an interior designer. Well, can she design the interiors of . . . a building for me, perhaps?

God's plan

(Is it part of God's plan to also use my family—in some concrete, very special way—for whatever it is He wants me to do for Him? Am I getting a little cuckoo, or is this real?)

I finally got to talk with the mother of Jonathan, the young man of 20 summers destined to experience winters for the rest of his life unless some tangible help for his renal problem was forthcoming. I told her that somebody wanted to sponsor Jonathan's dialysis for life. She cried. A twinge in my heart told me something I couldn't quite comprehend because a lump in my throat was choking me.

(God wanted me to experience the divine joy of giving. How infinitely sweet it was to have the power to make a difference in the life of another human being!)

I was having a good time talking with people at the dialysis center. We were exchanging stories about our ailments and about our lives. It was quite uncanny that our conversation veered towards the fact that there were no reliable facilities for dialysis east of Manila (Angono, Antipolo, Binangonan, Cardona, Morong, Baras, etc.)—and patients living there, who are mostly poor or made poor by their ailment, have to come all the way to Manila for their "fix."

Then, I suddenly said, "I'm going to have one there. In Tanay."

There. It's now out in the open. I feel it in my bones. In that piece of rolling hills where trees and green grass go on forever, there shall rise a dialysis center for the poor.

Three machines

Perhaps, it shall begin with just three machines. Then, with the overflow of love from friends and strangers, it shall multiply until there will be other centers in other places, too. Of course, alone, and with my puny human strength, I can never do it. But then, the Lord will provide the strength. He will show me how. And He will send the right people.

(Please don't say this is impossible. Because that means you will not help. Say, instead, this is God's work. Then, you will care enough to share whatever you can to see it happen.)

There's a beautiful praise song with a refrain that goes:

"Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart."

I think I'm getting it now. This ailment of mine is a gift. A blessing!

(Inday Badiday can be reached by e-mail through badids2000@yahoo.com)

Ben Yalung revives Cine Suerte to produce religious movies

By Jocelyn Valle

YOU know that the movie industry is in really bad shape when major studios cut down on production and other film outfits either close shop or maintain a wait-and-see stance, like Cine Suerte's Ben Yalung.

Movie production

It was around 1982 when Yalung got into movie production. While Regal Films was churning out mostly teen movies and family pictures, and Viva Films was transforming popular komiks serials into glossy melodramas, Cine Suerte focused on action flicks.

For his company's first offering, Yalung got Lino Brocka to direct Christopher de Leon and Philip Salvador in "Cain at Abel." The following year, Cine Suerte was able to sign up Fernando Poe Jr. for several projects.

Other film types

It also ventured into other film types, such as comedy ("Stomach In, Chest Out," with Eddie Garcia), sexy ("Hayop sa Ganda," with Vic Vargas and Misses Universe Gloria Diaz and Amparo Muñoz), fantasy ("Zuma" and "Anak ni Zuma") and all-out drama (Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Karnal").

After co-founding the Catholic Charismatic group, Oasis of Love, Yalung took a detour to religious movies, producing such films as "Kristo" and "Ama Namin" (in cooperation with Premiere Productions).

Since five years ago, though, Yalung has been on a break from show business, pursuing more profitable ventures: banking and dining.

Restaurants

He has resurrected the Chew Chew Junction restaurant that used to be one of the favorite eateries during the '80s. The restaurants are now housed in malls (Sta. Lucia and soon in SM Megamall, Centerpoint, Southmall and Fairview).

But the best news is that Yalung is set to return to film production. In fact, he'll soon be conducting a nationwide search for a new talent to star in Cine Suerte's movie on Our Lady of Manaoag.

Yalung has decided to concentrate on films with a religious theme. "I want my movies to have a positive effect on viewers," he explains. We do need a lot of that!

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'Men in Black II' takes in $24.4M

From p. G1

$6,760 average, $132.7 million, two weeks.

2. "Road to Perdition," DreamWorks, $22.1 million, 1,797 locations, $12,287 average, $22.1 million, one week.

3. "Reign of Fire," Disney, $15.6 million, 2,629 locations, $5,946 average, $15.6 million, one week.

4. "Halloween: Resurrection," Dimension, $12.3 million, 1,954 locations, $6,291 average, $12.3 million, one week.

5. "Mr. Deeds," Sony, $10.8 million, 3,239 locations, $3,347 average, $94 million, three weeks.

6. "The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course," MGM, $9.5 million, 2,525 locations, $3,777 average, $9.5 million, one week.

'Lilo & Stitch'

7. "Lilo & Stitch," Disney, $8 million, 2,940 locations, $2,730 average, $118.4 million, four weeks.

8. "Like Mike," 20th Century Fox, $7.8 million, 2,436 locations, $3,216 average, $32.8 million, two weeks.

9. "Minority Report," Fox, $7.2 million, 2,419 locations, $2,983 average, $110.1 million, four weeks.

10. "The Bourne Identity," Universal, $5.8 million, 2,199 locations, $2,620 average, $99 million, five weeks. *AP*

Benefits of ionized water

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WHILE ionized alkaline water is helpful for many internal body functions, acid water is beneficial for external body use.

Where can we obtain it? A water ionizer machine is hooked up to the faucet and automatically segregates conventional tap water into alkaline water and acid water.

Skin problems

According to reports, acid water from an ionizer machine will alleviate skin problems like rashes, pimples, eczema and insect bites. It also strengthens the hair and revitalizes it.

Many people tend to doubt that ionized water can have such positive effects on the body. However, good results support the best presentations. We have already personally experienced the benefits of ionized water.

Today, we would like to share the experiences of other grateful individuals who have benefited from the use of both ionized alkaline water and acid water:

Dr. Lemuel Tarucan says, "I find freshly ionized alkaline water good for my gastrointestinal disorders like stomach ache, ulcer, and even constipation. All I have to do is drink at least eight glasses of this water everyday . . .I share this incredible experience with my patients and their ailments such as arthritis are relieved.

"As for acid water, it acts as a disinfectant for the skin and toner for the hair. It also prolongs the life of cut flowers."

Medical ointments

On the benefits of acid water, Wilma Gidaya states, "I suffered from moist eczema after the July 1999 floods. When medical ointments failed after two months, I decided to immerse my feet in ionized acid water. After two days, the eczema dried up and has not returned. I also noticed some smoothening of the skin on my legs."

Neneng Arceo shares. "I've had extremely sensitive skin. I'd react even to the mildest soaps. Rashes were often seen on my back and chest. Now, my skin has become softer. No medicines, no moisturizers, no medicated soaps. I drink at least eight glasses of ionized water daily and use acid water for cleansing and bathing."

Ben Francisco: "At long last, my blood sugar which shot up to 400mg/dl is now down to normal level. I used to take three insulin shots daily; I seldom do now. Even my blood pressure is stable. I drink eight to 12 glasses of ionized alkaline water everyday."

Edwin Mirabueno says, "I thought my BP medications were for life. I was wrong. After drinking ionized alkaline water, I lost my hypertension. My blood pressure is now stable at 120/80 without my BP pills. My blood sugar is also down to normal level. I've lost 10 pounds. Not bad!"

Questions

Atty. Ben Magnaye of Jupiter Healthcare Systems called up to share these quotes with us. He said interested people could learn more about alkaline water from their website, www.jupiter-health.cjb.net, or email questions to them at jupiter@philonline.com. Their active phone line is 813-5483.

Magnaye recalls his own experience: "I am no longer on maintenance medication, and am now free from my 17-year hypertension, gout and high blood sugar. I also lost 12 pounds—thanks to my daily intake of at least 12 glasses of freshly ionized alkaline water."

'FALSETTOS.' Multiple plots.

Contemporary gay drama in 'Falsettos'

By Monique Wilson

THE STUDY of homosexuality has become an important aspect of theater in recent years. This has changed thinking, performance and teaching of texts that speak about and explore contemporary gay lives.

Powerful medium

Musical theater, in particular, is a powerful medium for depicting the contemporary gay experience. William Finn and James Lapine's Tony Award-winning musical "Falsettos" is a perfect example of this.

"Falsettos" is a combination of two musicals—"March of the Falsettos" and "Falsettoland"—about the coming of age of a character named Marvin. An earlier musical (not part of the combined musical now being played), "In Trousers"—forms the third and earlier part.

What makes these musicals so unique is that they are freed from the constraints of conventional drama. While most musicals have a linear narrative, "Falsettos" has multiple plots—and most of the main characters are both protagonists and antagonists—the conflicts being emotional and mental rather than plot-oriented or physical.

Most of the music is made up of elaborate ensembles that define relationships and conflicts—"where the artifice of song allows the thoughts of the characters to be voiced as naturally as their words."

Like Stephen Sondheim, William Finn has created intimate operettas for Broadway voices (the shows are sung through—with no dialogue—and musical numbers are difficult, so only the best and finest voices in musical theater can handle them).

Nuclear family

The "Falsettos" musicals are about Marvin's relationships with his nuclear family—his wife and son—and his lover, Whizzer. They move from Marvin's realization about his sexuality, relationships, family, death, acceptance, loss and love.

Watching Jake Macapagal's local star turn as the charming yet confused Marvin; Lynn Sherman's Trina, the wife "breaking down" from all the realities she's had to face; Joshua Ramirez as son Jason, depicting an adolescent's turmoil and anger, and Joel Trinidad as Whizzer, portraying a man dying of AIDS—you begin to see yourself in these characters, and situations, and "Falsettos" becomes no longer a show, but a mirror in which we find ourselves.

Metaphors

More importantly, "Falsettos" creates a world full of verbal and physical metaphors—powerful metaphors that the characters are always aware of, while also being aware of their experiences as metaphors—a gift denied the real or realistic worlds we live in.

It is in these metaphors where we are able to truly see ourselves, freed from the boundaries and constraints of labels, rules and tradition, and where drama and all its creative structures and styles help define and reinforce life and love for us.

Gay dramas like "Falsettos" push limits. They defy conventionalism and bring richness and depth into understanding life and love.

("Falsettos" runs at the Music Museum on July 20, and every Friday and Saturday evening until Aug. 3. Call 891-5610.)

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(bridgeway between Anne Klein & Chronos, R1-level)
July 19-21 Play Underground's REBOUND (bungee-trampoline) @ the Lopez Strip
July 20 It's Raining Cats & Dogs (Cats & Dogs Fair; mall hours)
@ the Power Plant Plaza Garden & South Court
July 20 Noel Cabangon & Cooky Chua
@ the Concourse Level, 8-11pm
July 20-21 Kiddie Shows @ Lifestyles, featuring a phantomime artist, juggling-monocyclist, ventriloquist, and the world's champion yoyo player, 2:30-4pm
July 16-21 Cafe @ Lifestyles
July 19-20 Mall-Wide Mannequin Fashion Show
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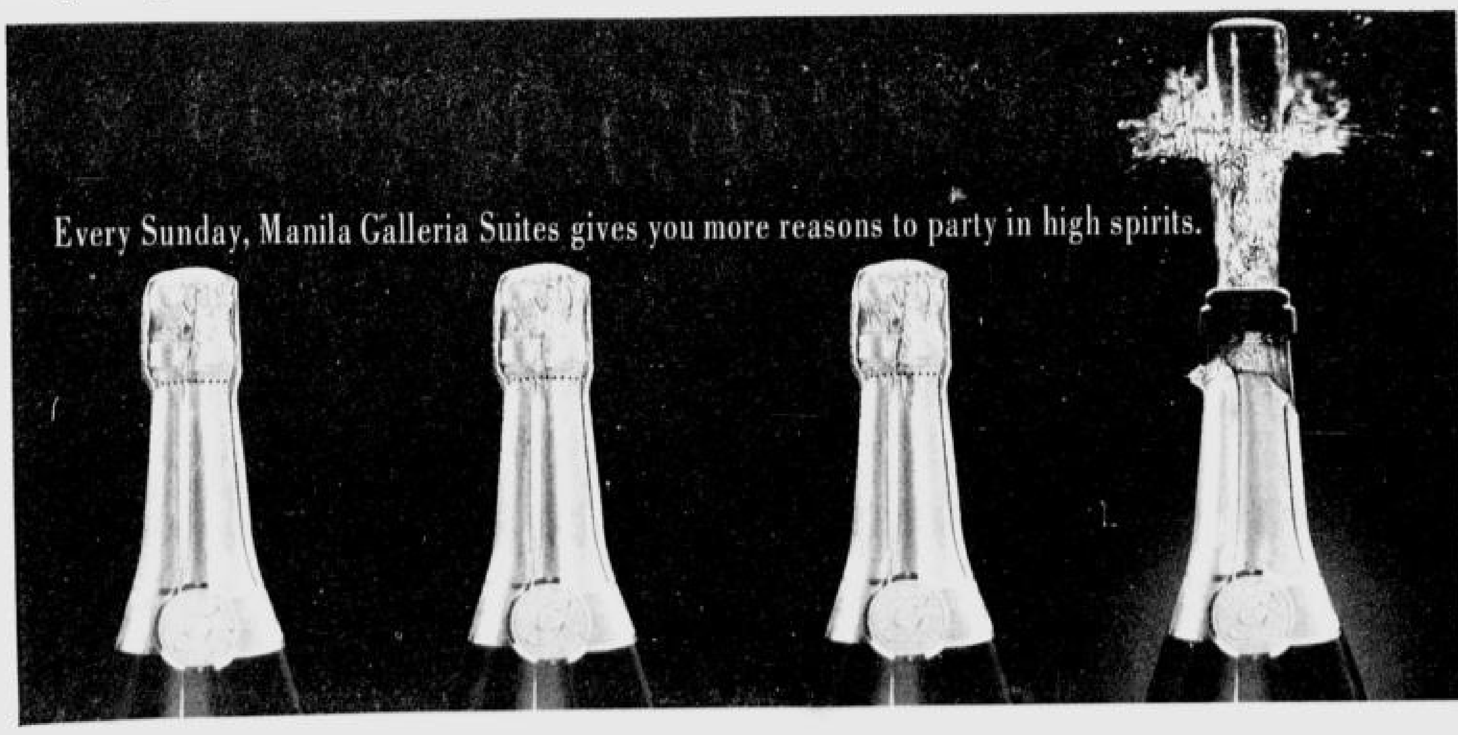
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'Silver Harvest' recalls Gantimpala's 25 years

By Edmund L. Sicam

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation will kick off the year-long celebration of its 25th year in grand fashion at the CCP Main Theater on July 26. We spoke recently to Frannie Zamora, who's directing the show "Silver Harvest" and he was excited about the different production numbers.

Long-running musical

There will be musical numbers featuring songs from "Magsimula Ka," "Ibong Adarna," "Kanser" and "Florante at Laura." "Magsimula Ka" was a long-running musical that marked the early appearances of Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez, who went on to play important roles in "Miss Saigon."

"Kanser," based on Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" is the longest running production of GTF. It was first staged 20 years ago with Tommy Abuel as Crisostomo Ibarra. That role has since been played by Teroy Guzman, Ernie Garcia, Richard Quan and Jojit Lorenzo.

The role of Maria Clara was originally performed by Susan Africa. Others who have played the part include Mia Gutierrez, Adriana Agcaoili, Grace Amilbangsa and Cherry Pie Picache.

The show will also pay tribute to Gantimpala actors who have passed away. These include Mary Walter ("Hiblang Abo," "Kasalan sa Likod ng Simbahan"), Venchito Galvez ("Hiblang Abo"), Rene Requiestas ("Bongbong and Kris") and Ray Ventura.

THE GANTIMPALA family of theater artists.

Frannie recalls that Requiestas used to walk to the CCP for rehearsals because he didn't have money for transportation. He would leave his house in Bliss Parañaque at 3 p.m. for a 5 p.m. rehearsal and arrive there ahead of everyone else who had transportation. The comedian regularly appeared in Kabataan Barangay shows before joining Gantimpala.

After his GTF days, he caught the attention of director Marilou Diaz Abaya, who cast him in her TV satire "Sic O'clock News." The TV appearance led to a successful stint in the movies, which was cut short by a serious illness.

Moving spirit

Former CCP president Lucrecia Kasilag will get special honors for being the moving spirit behind GTF. It was she who suggested to Tony Espejo the formation of the theater group. GTF started out by staging award-winning plays from the CCP's screenwriting tilts, and eventually branched out to do other works. All its productions have been staged in Tagalog except for its latest production, William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." Espejo will also be honored, as well as Ray Albano.

The grand finale will feature a parade of the many stars who have graced GTF's productions in the last 25 years.

"Silver Harvest" will be hosted by Ricky Davao with several Gantimpala alumni lending him support—Susan Africa, Spanky Manikan, Chat Silayan, Joey Reyes, Alma Concepcion, Nonie Buencamino, Kimberly Diaz, Allan Paule, Wowie de Guzman and Pinky Marquez.

Frannie estimates that GTF's plays have been watched by some 3.5 million people in 25 years, most of them students and young viewers. When the company started, production budget was P5,000 per show, with tickets selling at P2 and P3. Today, it costs about P500,000 to mount a production, still low compared to other productions, while tickets sell at P120 and P150.

While bigger theater companies manage to get corporate sponsorships to finance their plays, GTF depends mostly on ticket sales to survive. This, obviously, is not enough and the GTF intends to mount a more aggressive campaign to attract sponsors. Another priority is to find a home where its plays can be staged. Right now, GTF uses three venues: the AFP auditorium, Sta. Cecilia Hall at St. Scholastica's Manila and the RFC building in Las Piñas.

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928-9865	927-6578	927-2650	816-1178	521-2131	911-1159	633-5075	715-0534	800-3513	(046) 417-0258	417-6795	(032) 231-0120-35	(033) 320-6355	523-8593	(033) 320-5213	(045) 961-6967	898-1518	829-7167	(082) 297-7303

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A3-0432 Series of 2002

"Lower than Cash Price" appliances from Citibank

Now here's your chance to own those dream appliances at lower than the cash price!

Citibank, the country's largest single bank issuer of credit cards, teams up with SM Appliance Center, Inc. to give all Citibank credit cardholders the most incredible deal ever –the **"Lower than Cash Price"** promo at the SM Appliance Installment Fiesta.

Happening until July 31, 2002 at the SM Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall, Citibank's **"Lower than Cash Price"** promo lets Citibank cardholders pay for items at lower than the actual cash price, available for the 6-month installment plan. Just charge your purchases on your Citibank credit card using the 6-month PayLite Installment Plan and get a 1% rebate on the purchase amount every month for 6 consecutive months.

For example, charge a P30,000 flat TV on your Citibank credit card using PayLite and pay only P5,000 every month at 0% interest rate over the next six months. Every month, you get a 1% rebate - which is equivalent to P300 monthly. The rebate will be reflected on your statement of account. All in all, you get P1,800 in savings after 6 months and end up paying only P28,200!

SUMMARY	
CASH PRICE	P30,000
CITIBANK PAYLITE CARD PRICE	P28,200
SAVINGS (REBATE)	P 1,800

In effect, Citibank will be giving a special bonus if you charge your appliance purchase via PayLite Installment Plan for six months. So you'll in fact be paying lower than the cash price amount at the end of your installment payment period. You pay under lighter, easier installment terms, get zero percent interest, and even get back a portion of what you paid for via the rebates.

So come to the SM Appliance Installment Fiesta and use your Citibank Classic Visa or MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa or MasterCard, Citibank Visa Platinum, Citibank Clear MasterCard, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa or Shell-Citibank MasterCard. Then choose the PayLite Installment option that you want.

With Citibank PayLite's **"Lower than Cash Price"** promo, you get the lowest installment rates plus the greatest savings on the best range of appliance brands that have made the SM Appliance Installment Fiesta a must-see event among consumers. It's simply the best way to fill your homes with the appliances of your dreams.

For more information, please call the 24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999, or visit www.citibank.com.ph.

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2002 ✦ 16 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 41

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- **Reporter for a Day** Page 5
- **Your Poetry** Page 8
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HTTP://YOU.INQ7.NET/JI

Top Tips from A Top Kid

By Margaux Ortiz

ARE you a little panicky that your first long exams are just around the corner? Still feeling a bit rusty from that long, happy summer vacation? Well, worry no more. Nine-year-old top kid Jejomar O. Bongat is here to give some great tips to help you prepare and shape up for your tests.

"I've written articles on how to study for quizzes and tests in our school paper," says Jejomar, a fourth grader from San Beda College Grade School. He is also the Feature Editor of the Little Bedan. "I based a lot of my suggestions on my own experiences with studying and dealing with exams."

Jejomar says that his tips have always worked in his favor. He has consistently been at the top of his class since prep. "Plus, they also help me prepare for academic contests," the lively nine-year-old shares.

Jejomar has joined and excelled in many prestigious inter-school and school-based competitions like the Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines (MTAP), Mathalino Kid, Centennial Quiz Bee and Elocution contests. "I join these contests to enhance my mind and learn more things outside of our classroom," he relates.

In preparation for those intimidating long exams, Jejomar offers these nuggets of advice:

* In studying for the quarterly exams, you don't need to hassle yourself too much, says Jejomar. If you read your notes daily, that will serve as your review for quizzes and long exams.

* Try to develop a 5-6 day study habit. Constant studying will surely pay off on Exam Day because you will remember a lot more facts, stresses Jejomar. But don't forget to have fun on weekends, he adds. This is important for clearing your mind and relieving yourself of stress.

* Don't cram. This is the most tempting thing to do the night before a big test, says Jejomar. He shares that he had difficulty remembering his answers on an actual exam because he tried to squeeze in months of lessons the day before. "I was lucky I was able to recall most of what I studied for," he muses. "But I would never recommend anyone doing that."

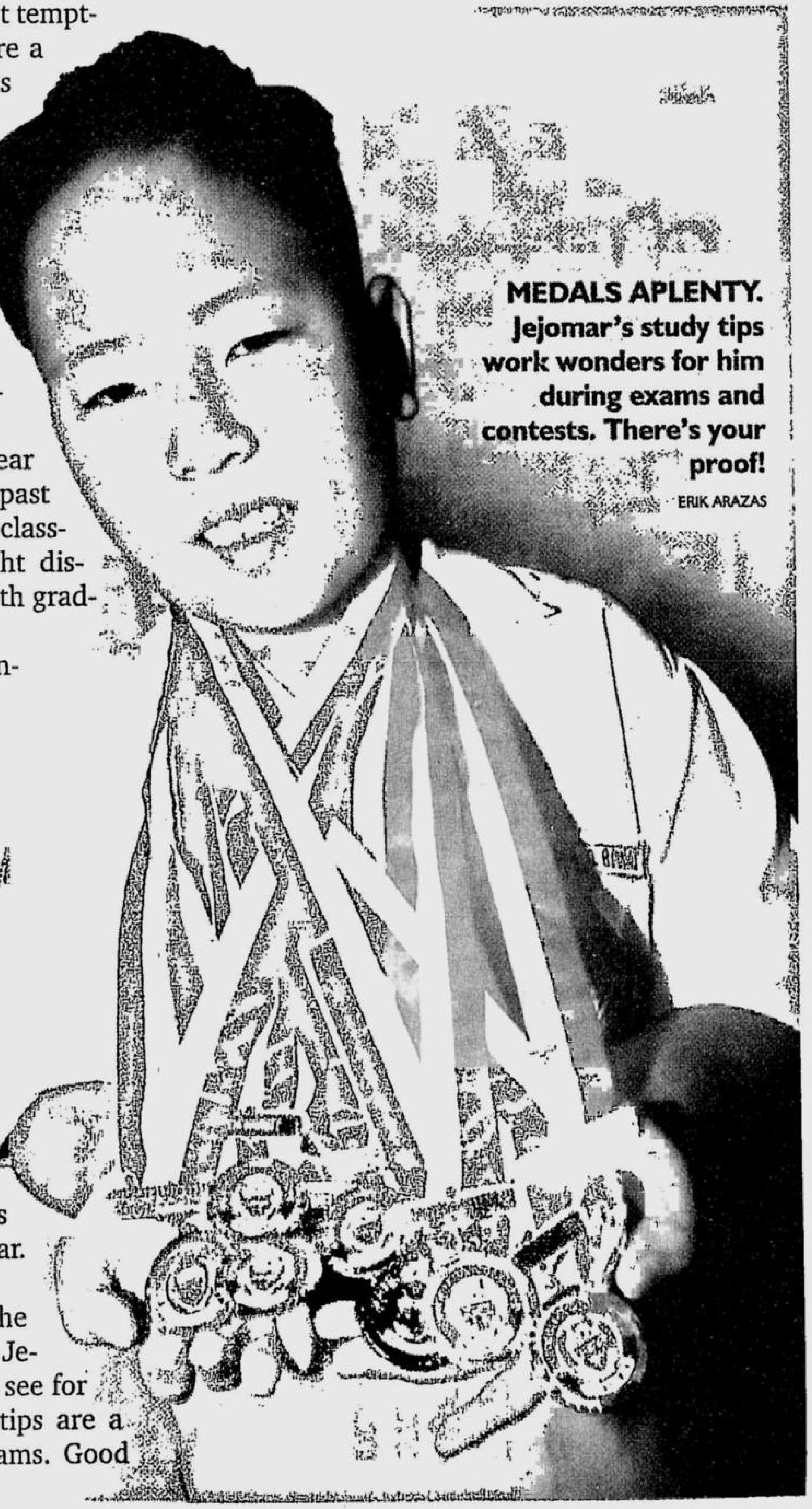
* During the test itself, clear your mind and try to recall past lessons. Don't talk to your classmates because they just might distract you, emphasizes the fourth grader.

* Don't forget to follow instructions. "Even if you know all the answers to the teacher's questions, you still might fail the whole thing if you don't read and follow the instructions carefully," says Jejomar.

* Review your answers before giving them to the teacher. "That way, you would know what you could still improve on the next time," he adds.

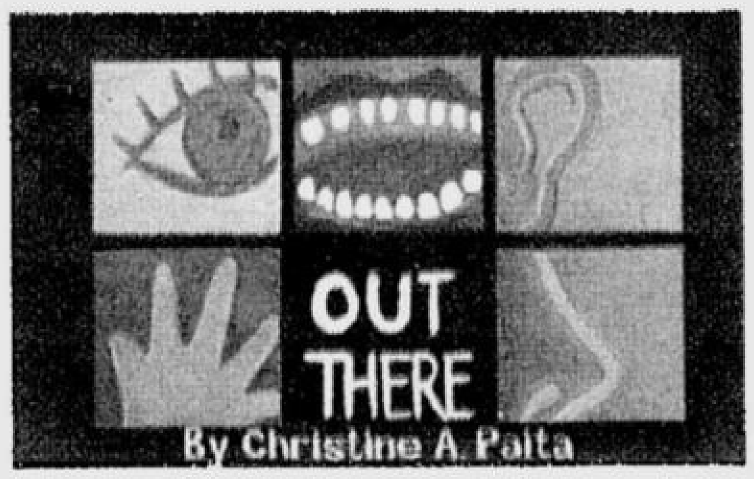
* After the exams, relax and be happy. "Just think that the first quarterly exam is finished at last," grins Jejomar. "One down, three to go."

Still feeling butterflies at the pit of your stomach? Just give Jejomar's suggestions a try and see for yourself why he says these tips are a surefire way to ace your exams. Good luck!



MEDALS APLENTY. Jejomar's study tips work wonders for him during exams and contests. There's your proof!

ERIK ARAZAS



By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

CRAFTS FOR KIDS. Get ready to mold some clay and paint stuff when you join Jollibee's Crafts Worskhops this July. Check out the following schedule of workshops:

- July 20—Clay Accessories (Jollibee Grand Central)
Wormy Picture Frame (Jollibee Sta. Lucia Grand Mall)
- July 27—Do-it-yourself Magnet (Jollibee Kalookan-LRT)
Glow in the Dark (Jollibee Grand Central)
Clay Accessories (Jollibee Sta. Lucia Phase 1)
Clay Accessories (Jollibee Sta. Lucia Grand Mall)
Mushroom Clay Accessories (Jollibee Royal Family Mall)
- July 28—Decorative Pot Painting (Jollibee Robinsons Metro East)

Hurry and visit the Jollibee stores! For more info, please call 363-4690 or 363-7659 and look for Ms Liza Bautista or Mr. Ghem Regalado.

ART STROKES. Outlet Yard, the newest hip mall at 1480 Quezon Avenue opens its art workshop to children and adults. "Art Strokes" will feature painting in pastel, oil, watercolor, and mixed media as well as charcoal drawing and crafts. Workshops will be held every Saturday and Sunday beginning August. On-site registration of participants will start at 1 p.m. For inquiries, please call 740-7221.

Contests

ART FOR PEACE. Paint your message of peace in Jollibee's "Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, Kid!" art contest. The contest is open to students, aged 7 to 12, from all schools. Contestants may submit only one entry in any of the two categories: oil-based medium (using oil pastels) and water-based medium (using watercolor, acrylic, water-soluble colored pencil, or gouache). Contest ends on August 16. For more info, see posters and flyers at a Jollibee store nearest you, or visit www.jollibee.com.ph.

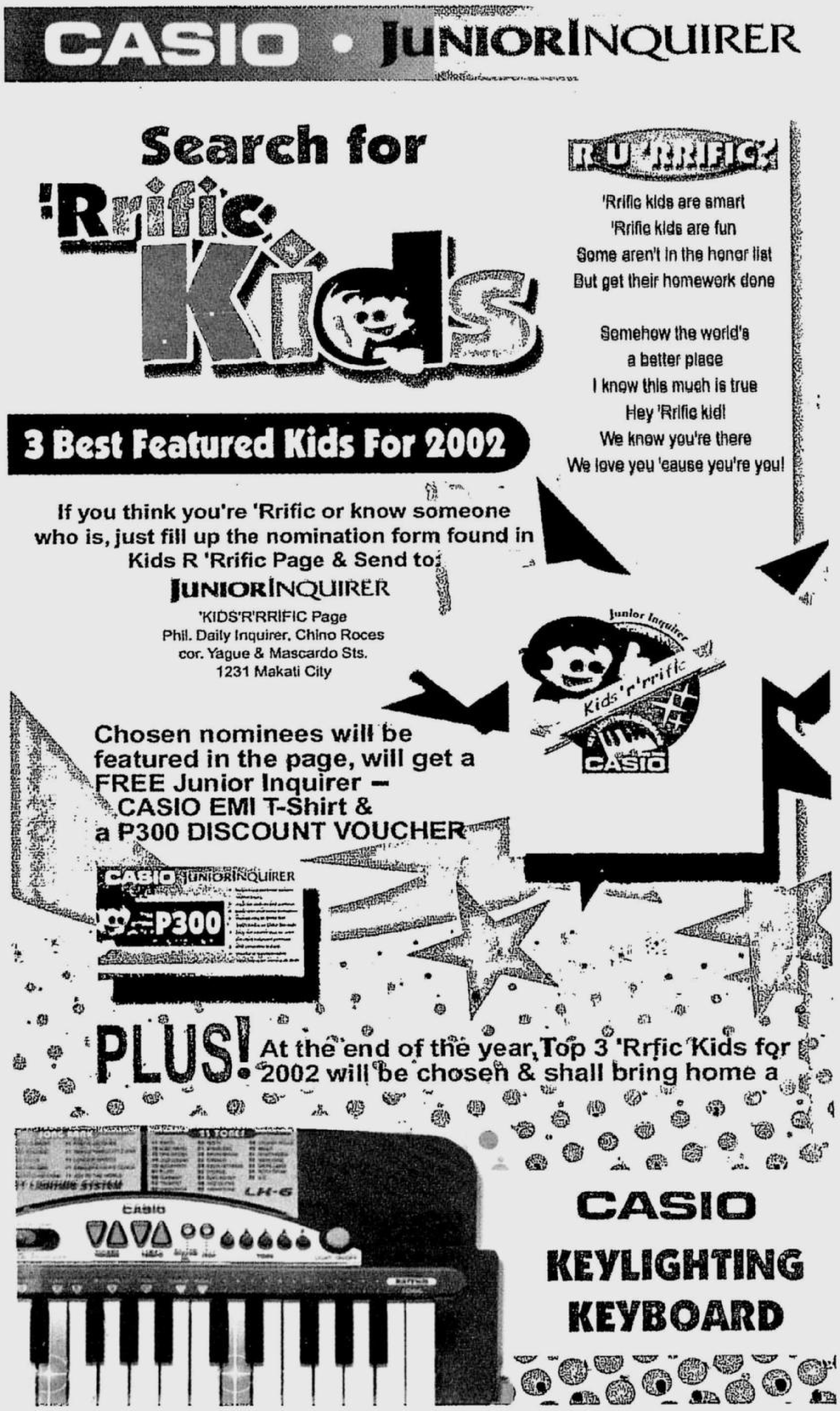
AbRodriguez

STARMALL SEARCH. Do you have the voice and talent? If you are 7 to 12 years old, you can join Starmall's search for the "Future Voice of the Philippines" and be discovered as the next superstar! Private and public schools are enjoined to send a student as their official contestant. The singing contest is held every Sunday and will run until September 15, 2002 at the Starmall Food Court on the second level. For more details, please call 718-1886.

Events

FULLY BOOKED! Celebrate the National Children's Book Festival with Powerbooks' line-up of activities this July. Join the storytelling and clay workshop on July 21,

Out There/ p. 7


CASIO • JUNIOR INQUIRER

Search for 'Rrific Kids

3 Best Featured Kids For 2002

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honor list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific or know someone who is, just fill up the nomination form found in Kids R 'Rrific Page & Send to:

JUNIOR INQUIRER
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

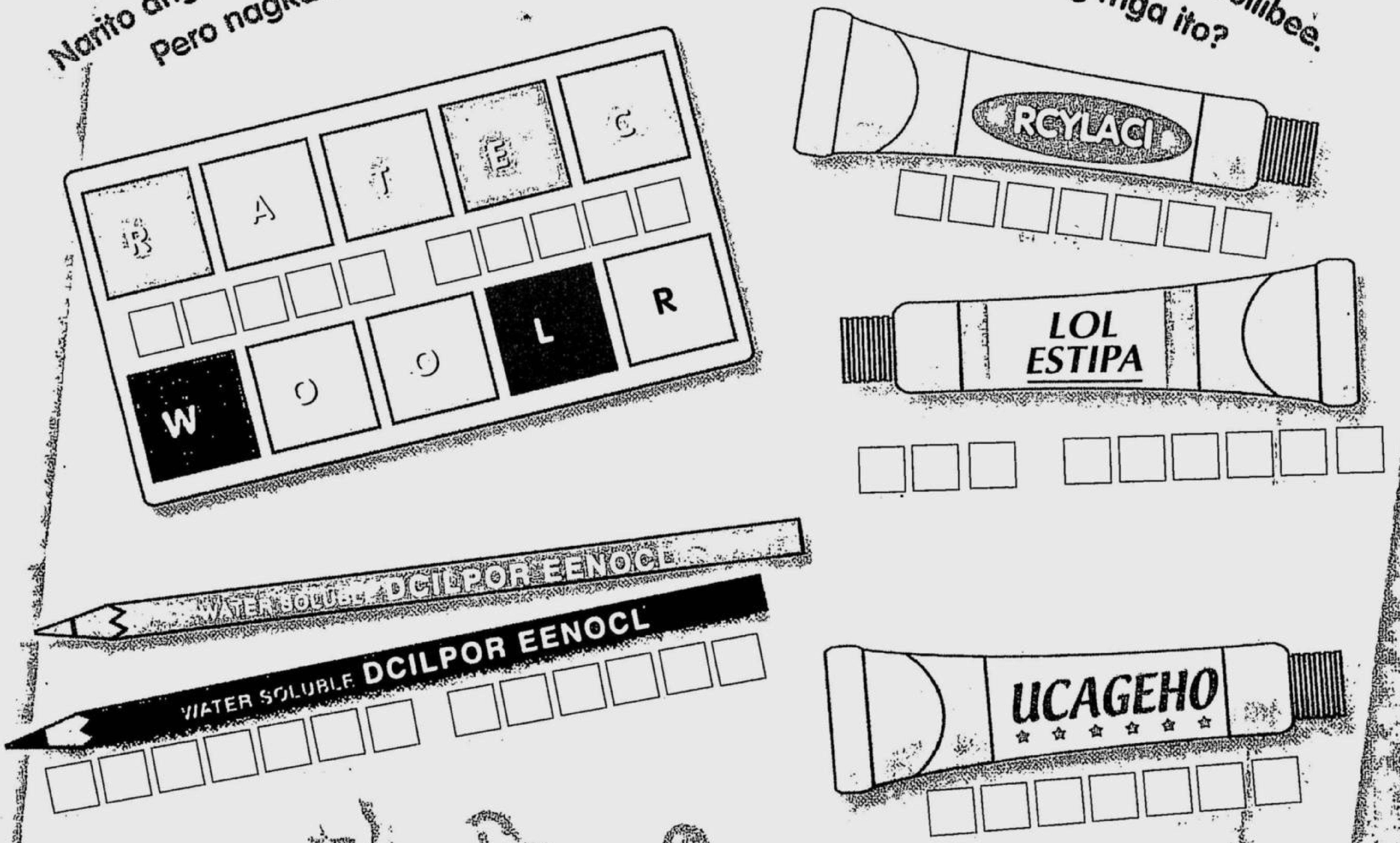
Chosen nominees will be featured in the page, will get a FREE Junior Inquirer – CASIO EMI T-Shirt & a P300 DISCOUNT VOUCHER

PLUS! At the end of the year, Top 3 'Rrfic Kids for 2002 will be chosen & shall bring home a

CASIO KEYLIGHTING KEYBOARD

KiD!

Narito ang mga painting materials na maaaring gamitin sa bagong contest ng Jollibee. Pero nagkahalo-halo ang mga titik! Kaya mo bang ayusin ang mga ito?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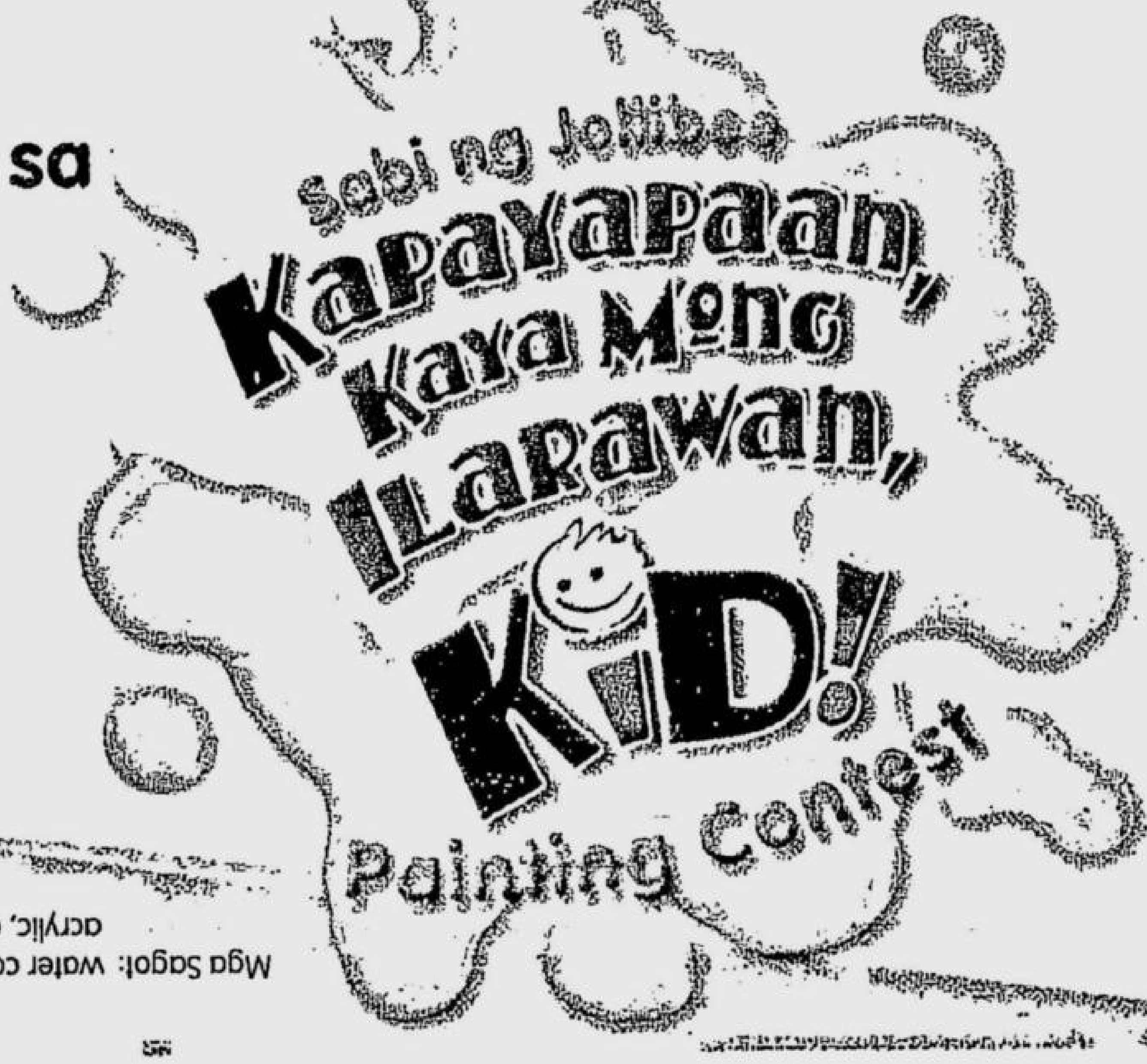
Sabi ng Jollibee
Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, KiD!
Painting Contest

Gumamit ng kahit alin sa mga materials na ito at gumawa ng larawan tungkol sa peace, kid!

Para sa mga detalye, magtanong sa mga paaralan o sa pinakamalapit na Jollibee!
O bisitahin ang aming website: www.jollibee.com.ph

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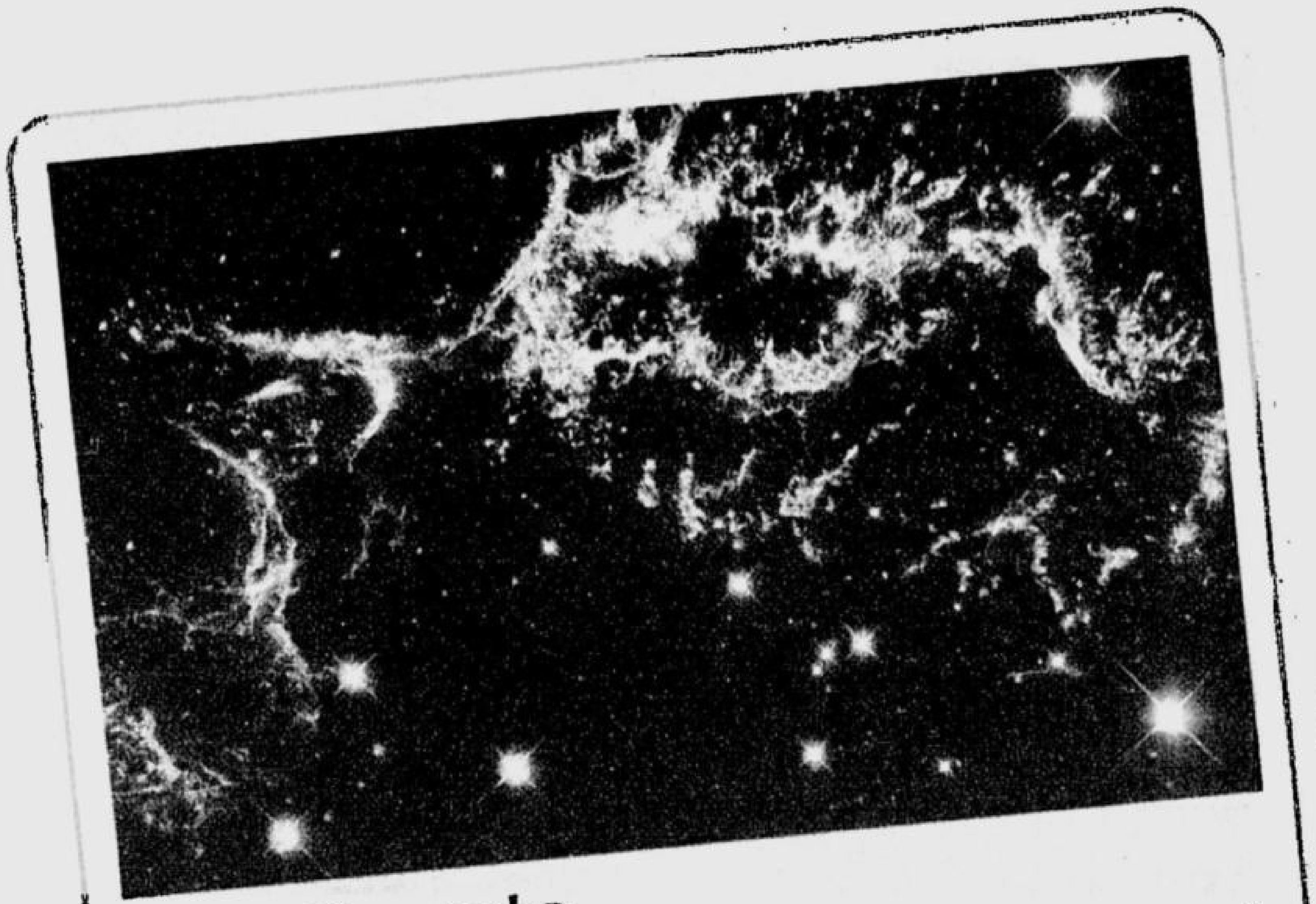
Tet Plass

Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan

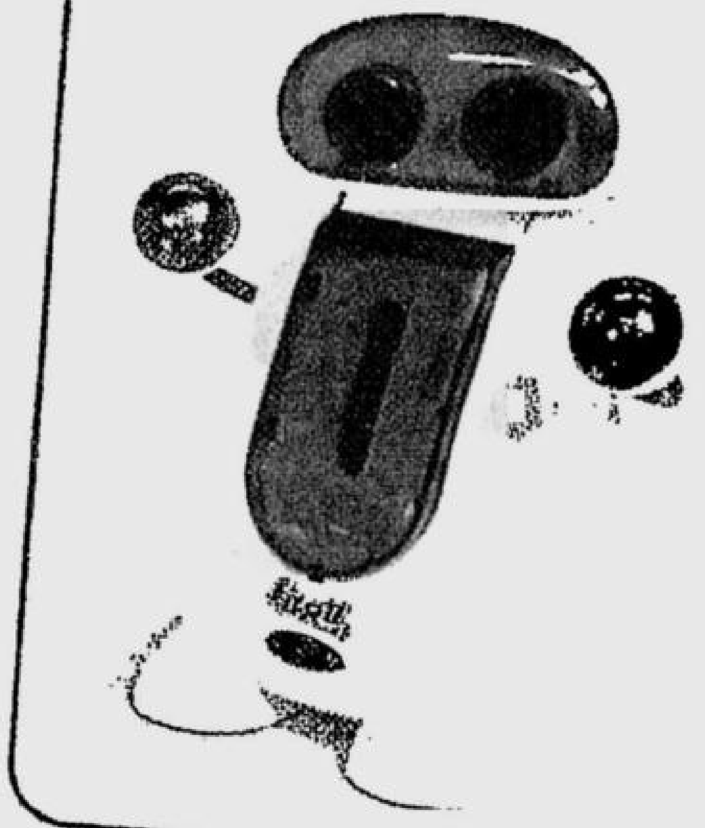
Sabi ng Jollibee Kaya Mo, KiD!

Mga Sagot: water color, colored pencil, acrylic, oil pastel, gouache



Space Fireworks

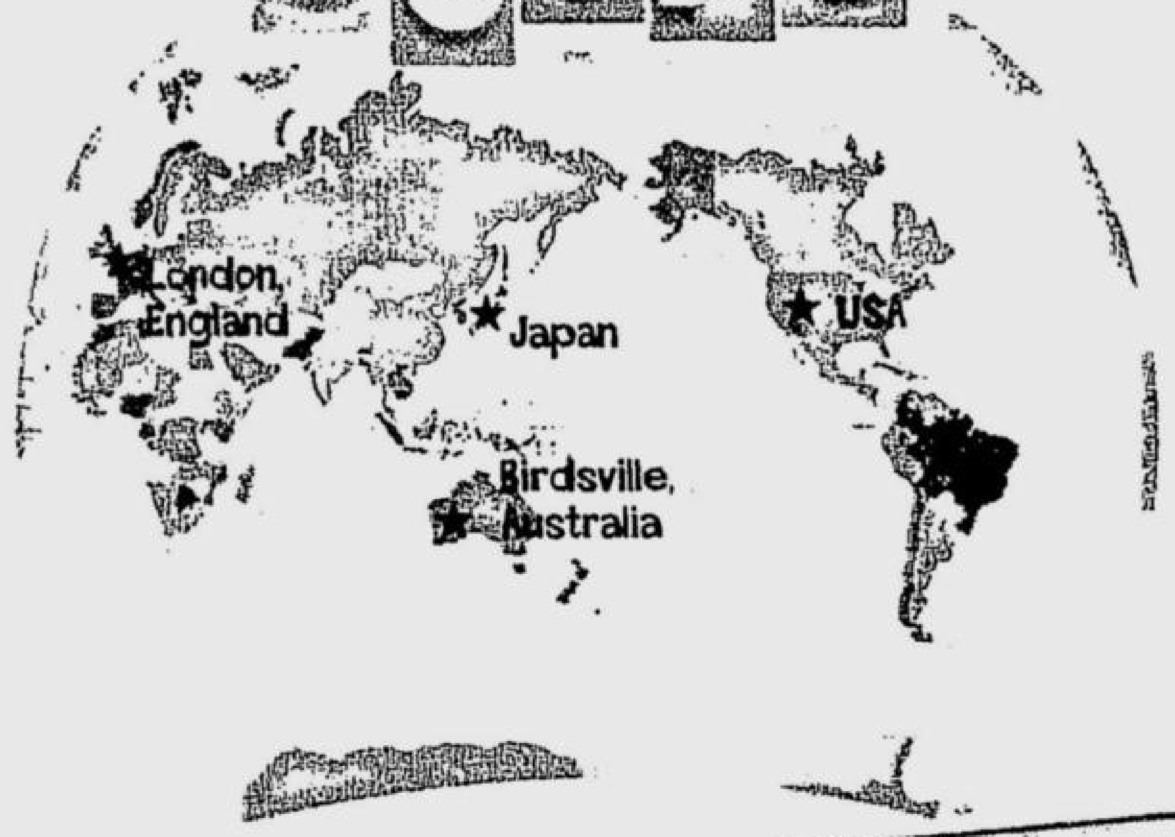
THIS new image from the Hubble Space Telescope shows red, white, blue, pink and green gas streamers coming from the remnants of an old supernova Cassiopeia A. The colors highlight parts of the debris where chemical elements are glowing. The dark blue fragments, for example, are richest in oxygen; the red material is rich in sulfur. *Reuters*



R2D2's Cousin

MEET FII-RII, a 16-centimeter (6.4-inch) "home-care" robot. This hi-tech home companion issued by Japan's NTT West Corp. and toy maker Takara Corp. can get orders via cellphone so it will turn electronic appliances on and off or monitor rooms with its digital camera. *AFP*

World Scope



Raintertainer

SCOREBOARD operator Charlie Billington juggles extra large tennis balls at the All-England Lawn Tennis Club when rain delayed the start of play. *AFP*

Around the World in 15 Days

JULES Verne must be really proud of US pilot Steve Fossett, the first man to fly solo around the world by balloon. Fossett poses in front of the Spirit of Freedom balloon shortly after landing near the Australian outback. *AFP*

Reporter for a Day

By Stephanie C. Ferrer
JI Correspondent
St. Joseph's College

IT ALL started on June 8. I was reading Junior Inquirer when I came across this ad: "Be A Cartoon Network Reporter". I read on and found out that the lucky winner will cover the Powerpuff Girls movie premiere and win loads of goodies.

I admit I was intrigued and so decided to join. I even said to myself that even if I dinn't win the grand prize, maybe I'd be lucky enough to win myself some movie premiere tickets. So I decided to answer the question: "If you had a super power, what would you do with it?" I then e-mailed my entry.

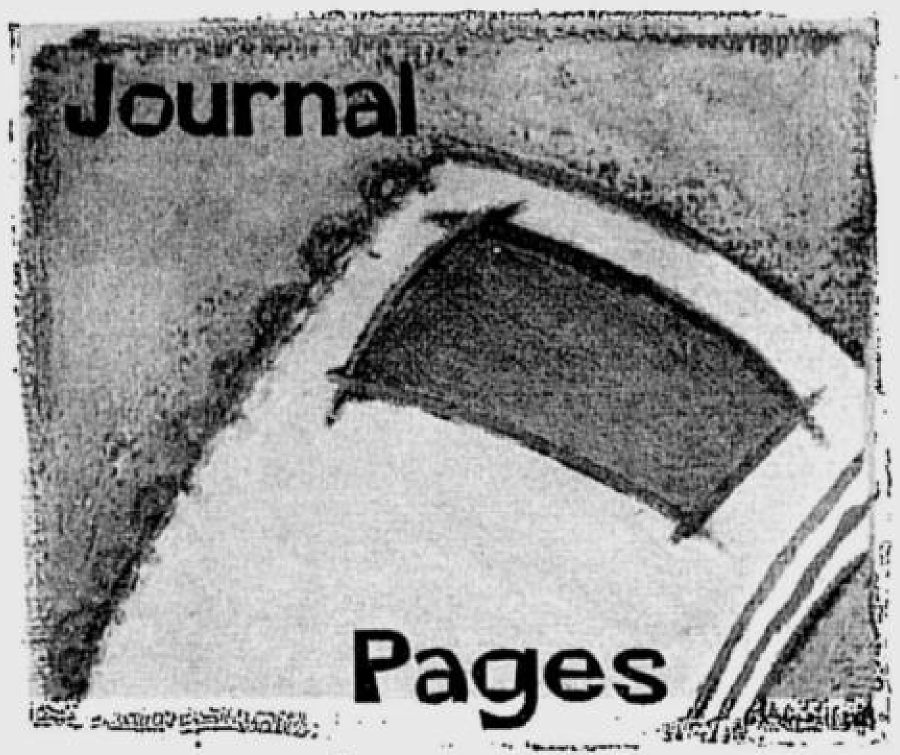
A few days later, Perceptions (ad agency) called and told me to go to their office in Makati for an audition to be a Cartoon Net-

Reporter/ p. 13

VTECH
NON STOP GIRL
It's Your World, Girl

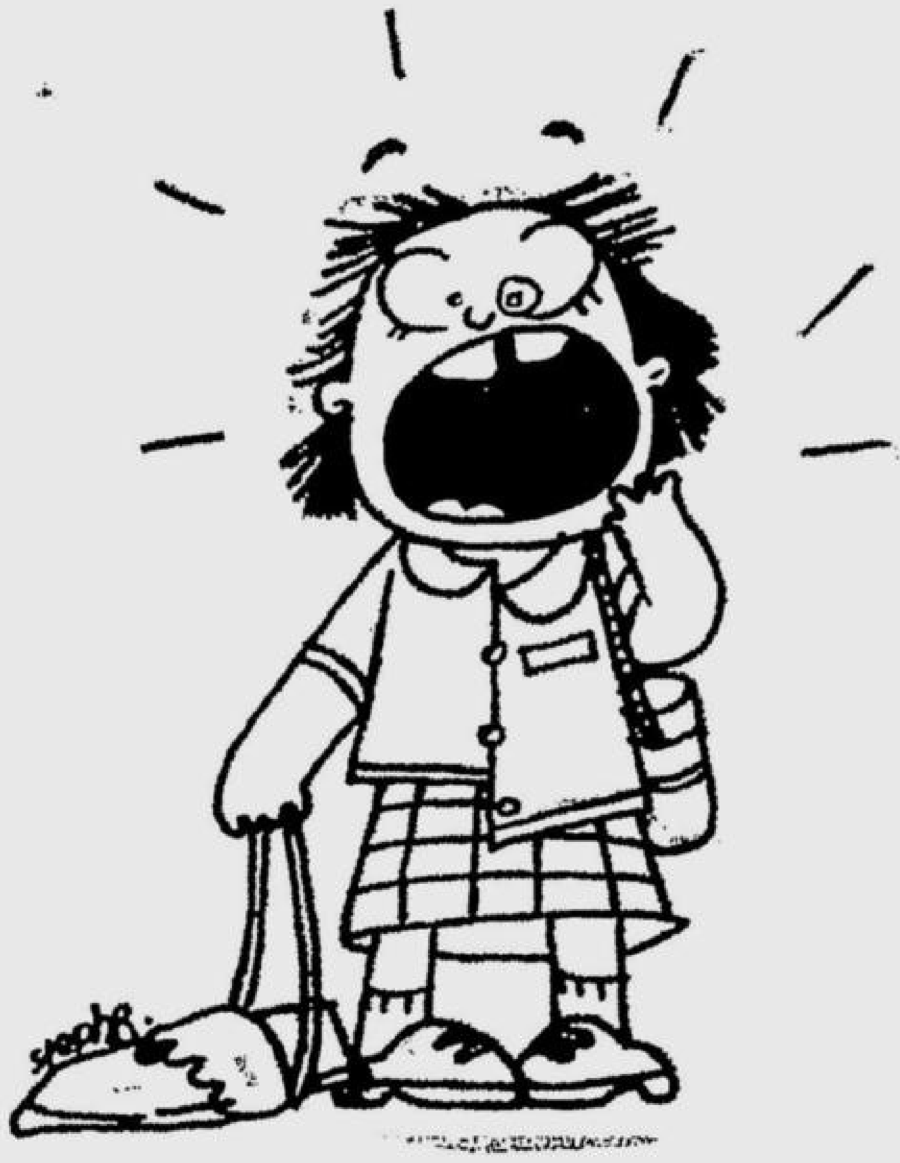
HERE I am getting one of my prizes!

DISNEY
TOY WORLD
Double Laser Stitch
with twist 'n' blast action!
Musical Hula Dancing Lilo
Lilo's head & hips sway side to side
Lilo Plush Toy
Electronic Cruisin' Stitch with Pleakley
electronic alien Stitch sounds!
Spittin' Stitch
Stitch opens his mouth wide and spits!
LILO&STITCH
Skitterin' Stitch
skitterin' action & break-away gate!
We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
Electronic Quick Fire Jumba with Stitch
quick firin' arm action!
only at TOY WORLD
© Disney
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO



Great weekend but...

By Katrina T. Raymundo
St. Benedict College
Alabang, Muntinlupa City



I LOVE weekends. They're the most important days of the week for me. I thank whoever "invented" weekends. I think they realized that people need to take a break.

On weekends, I set aside school papers and put strict teachers out of my mind. Weekends also keep us out of trouble, since we're away from people who cause us that. Yet at one particular 'weekend', I got myself into trouble...

I was really enjoying a behind-the-scenes program about a movie and it was as if the TV was hypnotizing me. I completely forgot about everything, even the list of tasks that I was supposed to do. Then Monday morning came...

I arrived at school still enchanted by the program. When the flag ceremony ended, our IDs were checked by our class adviser. "Oh no!" I thought. "I have no ID! What will I do?" I had to sign my name in the offense folder and took my seat, wondering what would happen next. Well, I forgot to bring a lot of materials (including my pencil case) that I needed for our projects. I was thankful that friends lent me materials, but I felt ashamed because of my irresponsibility. A good thing teachers during Activity Day aren't that strict.

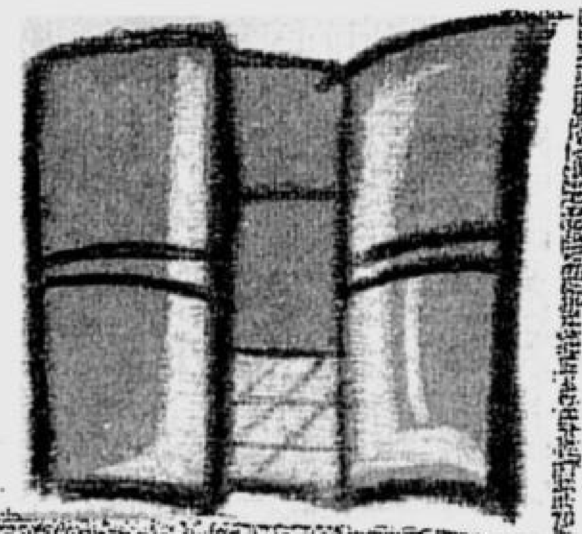
When I came home, the words "A DAY LIKE THIS SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN" flashed in my mind. My experiences that day left me a valuable lesson to keep for the rest of my life—"Never get enchanted by the TV. It may get you in trouble."

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Give me more science!

DEAR Editor,

I have been reading JI ever since our English teacher, Sir Laguiles, told us about it when we were in the 6th grade. Now I'm on my second year in high school.

I really like Junior Inquirer. It's full of stuff about us and information too. I also like your World Scope. It's full of interesting stuff from all over the world.

I'm also a Harry Potter reader, and I've been waiting for the release date of book 5.

Issues about our solar system, genetic cloning or everything that has to do with the word science always capture my eye. I hope you'll have more science articles.

Thanks for responding and God bless JI staff.—**MICHELLE ANNE MONTES**, 13, Jesu-Mariae School, Parañaque

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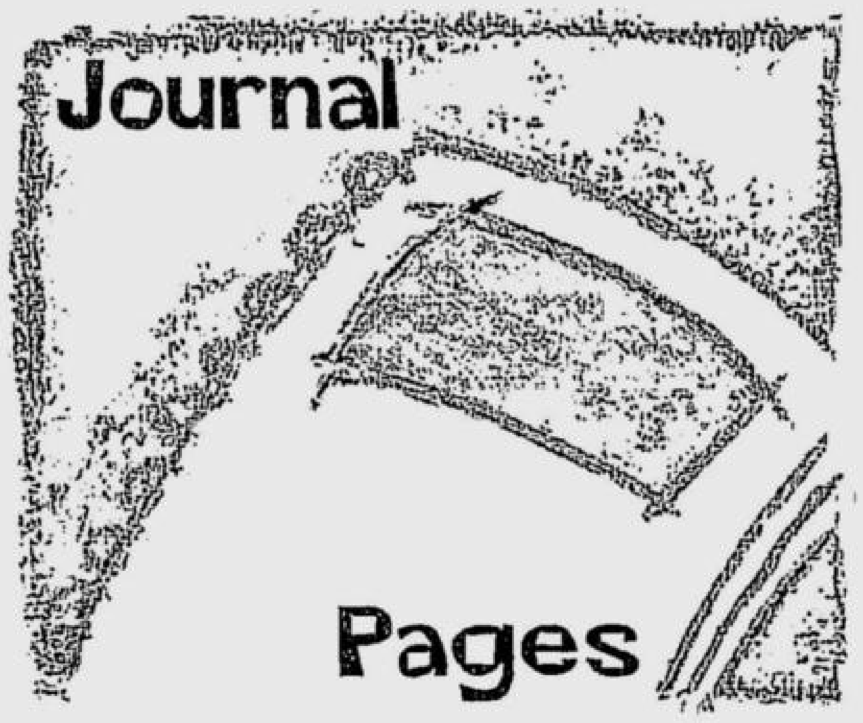

Journal Pages

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ound Familia

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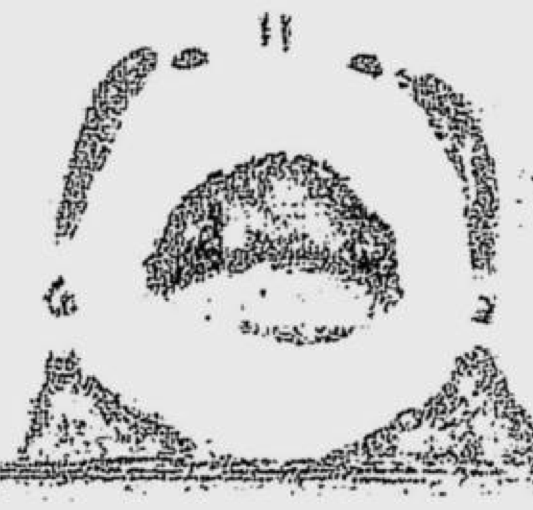
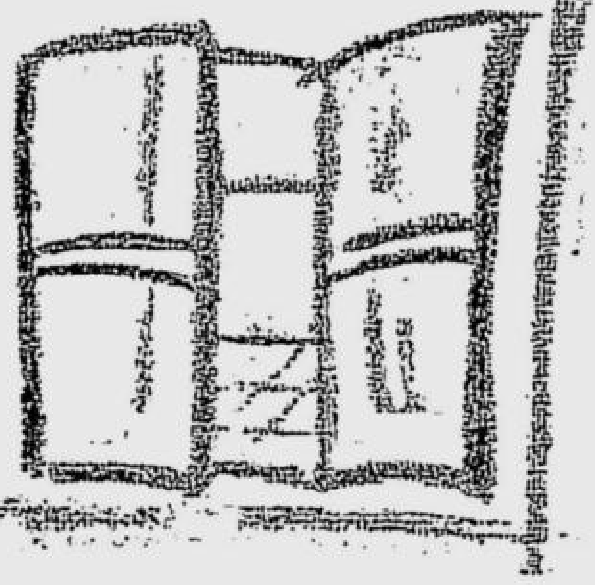


You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



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Junior Inquirer (JI) welcomes your views, suggestions, essays, short stories and poems. All contributions must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Contributions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned.
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the Junior Inquirer Editor,
Philippine Daily Inquirer,
P.O. Box 2353,
Makati Central Post Office,
1263 Makati City,
Philippines

RETAKE OF THE PRECEDING FRAME

Out There

(from page 2)

1-4 p.m., and storytelling and mask-making workshop on July 27, 1-4 p.m. at the Powerbooks Megamall special events area. The workshops are open to kids ages 7 to 12. For every P60 purchase of Adarna books in any Powerbooks branch from July 7 to 27, customers can register for the storytelling session. There will also be a special children's books sale from July 5 to 21 at Powerbooks branches in SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City; Arnaiz St., Makati City; and in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Enjoy a 70% discount on selected children's books. For more info, please call Powerbooks' customer service hotline at 844-4455 or email ibid@powerbooks.com. ph.

POWERPUFF GIRLS. Get a dose of sugar, spice and everything nice as Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup take over Robinsons Malls this July. There will be Meet and Greet sessions, where you can cuddle and have your photos taken with the Powerpuff Girls, and a sale of your favorite Powerpuff Girls items such as bags, hankies, clips and much more. Catch your favorite crime-fighting trio on the following dates: July 20 at Robinsons Place Imus-Fountain Area, 1 & 5 p.m., and Robinsons Department Store, 3 p.m.; July 21 at Robinsons Metro East-Fountain Area, 1 & 5 p.m., and Robinsons Department Store, 3 p.m.; July 27 at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga-Fountain Area, 1 p.m. & 5 p.m., and Robinsons Department Store, 3 p.m.; and July 28 at Robinsons Galleria-Fountain Area, 1 p.m., Robinsons Department Store, 3 p.m., and Dreamscape, 5 p.m. Please call 632-7672 for details.

CATS AND DOGS. Hey, cat and dog lovers! Spend the day with furry friends in "Rainin' Cats and Dogs Adopt a Dog Adopt a Cat", an event for the benefit of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, on July 20, Saturday, at the South Court and Garden Area, Powerplant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City. Check out the following activities: Dog Specialty Show, 11:30 a.m.; Animal Mascot Show, 12:30 p.m.; Dog Hairstyles and Grooming Demo, 1:30 p.m.; Cartoon Caricature, 2 p.m.; Cats and Dogs Parade, 3 p.m.; PinoyPet.com launch, 4 p.m.; and Celebrity Cats and Dogs Fashion Show, 5 p.m. For more info please contact Ana Cabrera at 724-1986 or email paws_hq@compass.com. ph.

Play

NARNIA ADVENTURE. Trumpets embarks on another adventure this year with the much-anticipated return to the Land Behind the Wardrobe Door in "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe"! Join Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy as they once again explore the enchanted land of Narnia! Each ticket you buy for the August 3 (Saturday) 8 p.m. show will help the pediatric asthma charity patients of the Philippine General Hospital. Enjoy a fascinating play and help one child breathe easier. For more details, please contact Julie at 0917-8995867. Tickets will be delivered for free!

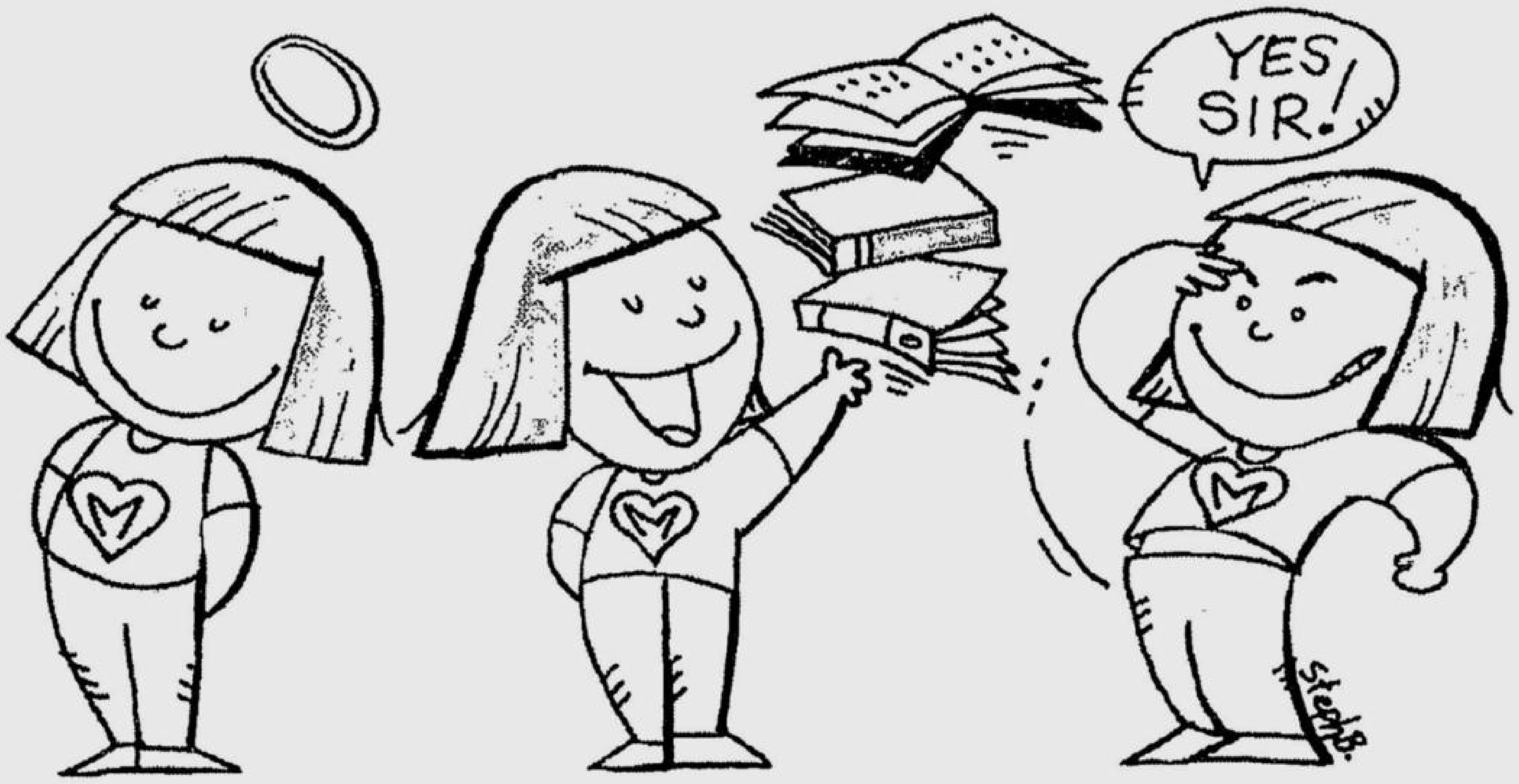
Cable Pick

APE TALK. Meet Washoe, an ape who can communicate with humans by sign language. Watch how Washoe and her four roommates communicate their needs, from food magazines to toys, in "Cleverest Ape in the World" on Tuesday, July 23 at 8 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.

At the Children's Accessories Department
rain, rain, go away!
Rainbreaker pals to keep little girls snug and dry
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO · MAKATI · CUBAO · HARRISON · NORTH EDSA · STA. MESA · ORTIGAS · LAS PIÑAS · BACOOR · FAIRVIEW · MANILA · PAMPANGA · ILOILO · CEBU · DAVAO

FOR KIDS BY KIDS

A Messy



By Anna Graziella J. B
Illustrations by Steph

Once there was a girl n
She always does her wor
She does and passes her assi
And follows her parents
She does and passes l
without complain
And helps in the househ
in the evening
She does all these w
Good girl isn't s

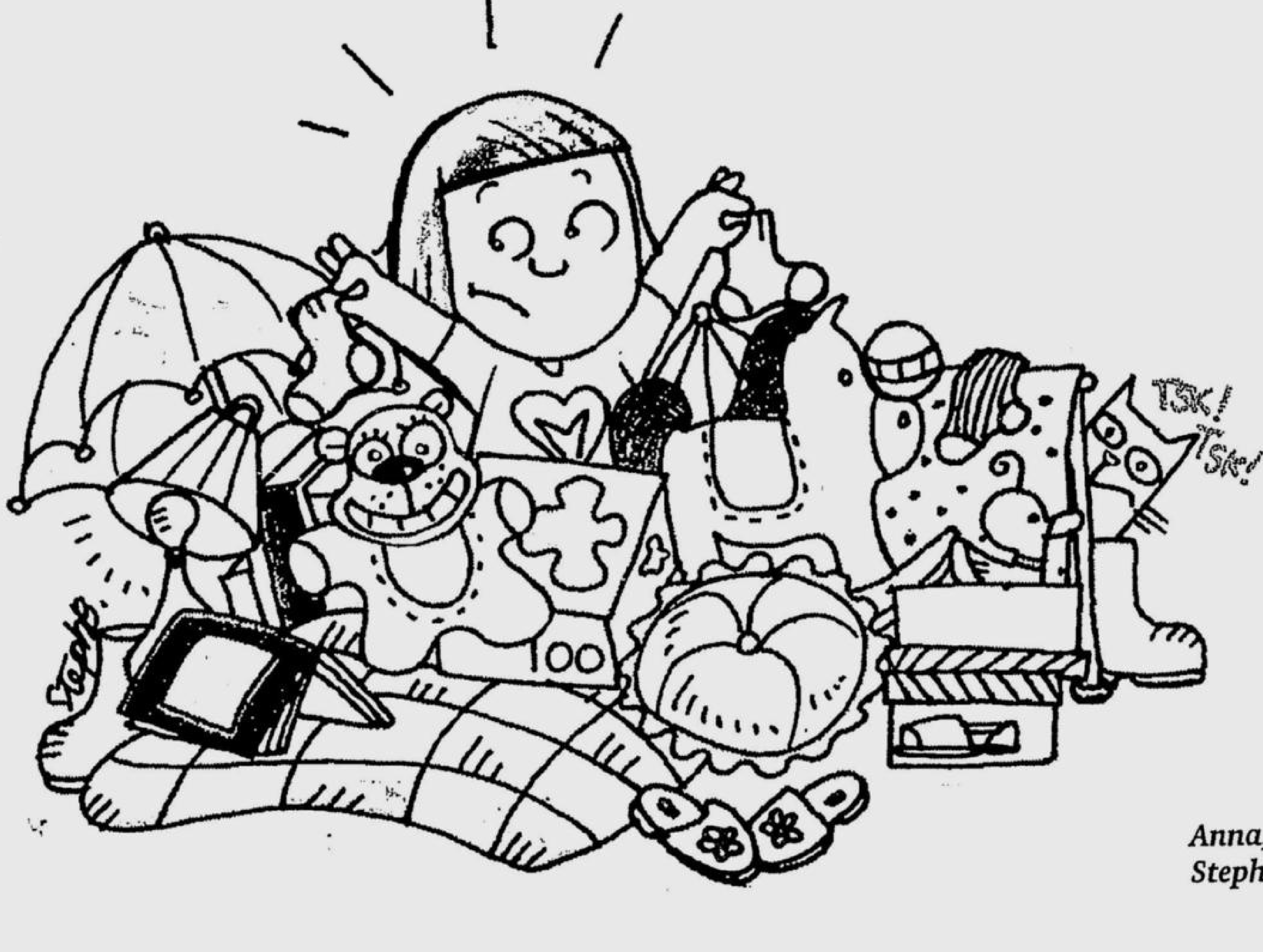
But there is one thing you s
Go to her room, and y
I could not imagine how
Living in her room that i

All of her things are scatter
So she has a hard time loo
anywhere
Here and there, to a
Where do you really w

Some of the pieces of the j
are missing
And there are bubble gums
Some of her sock doesn't
anymore

One day her father saw
Gosh, he almost burst
But he remained calm
"Mary, sit down on my lap, I'll
her father said.

Mary beamed, "Papa, begin
"Okay, I will," her father



Anna, 12, is a freshman at the Quezon Cit
Steph's room might look messy but she kn

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Room

rreno
Bravo

med Mary
k efficiently
nments on time
every time.
er work
ng
old chores

ith glee
e?

ill don't know
u'll know
it would be
so untidy!

d everywhere
king for them

nd fro
nt to go?

igsaw puzzle

in the ceiling
have a pair

the mess
n anger!
instead
tell you a story,"

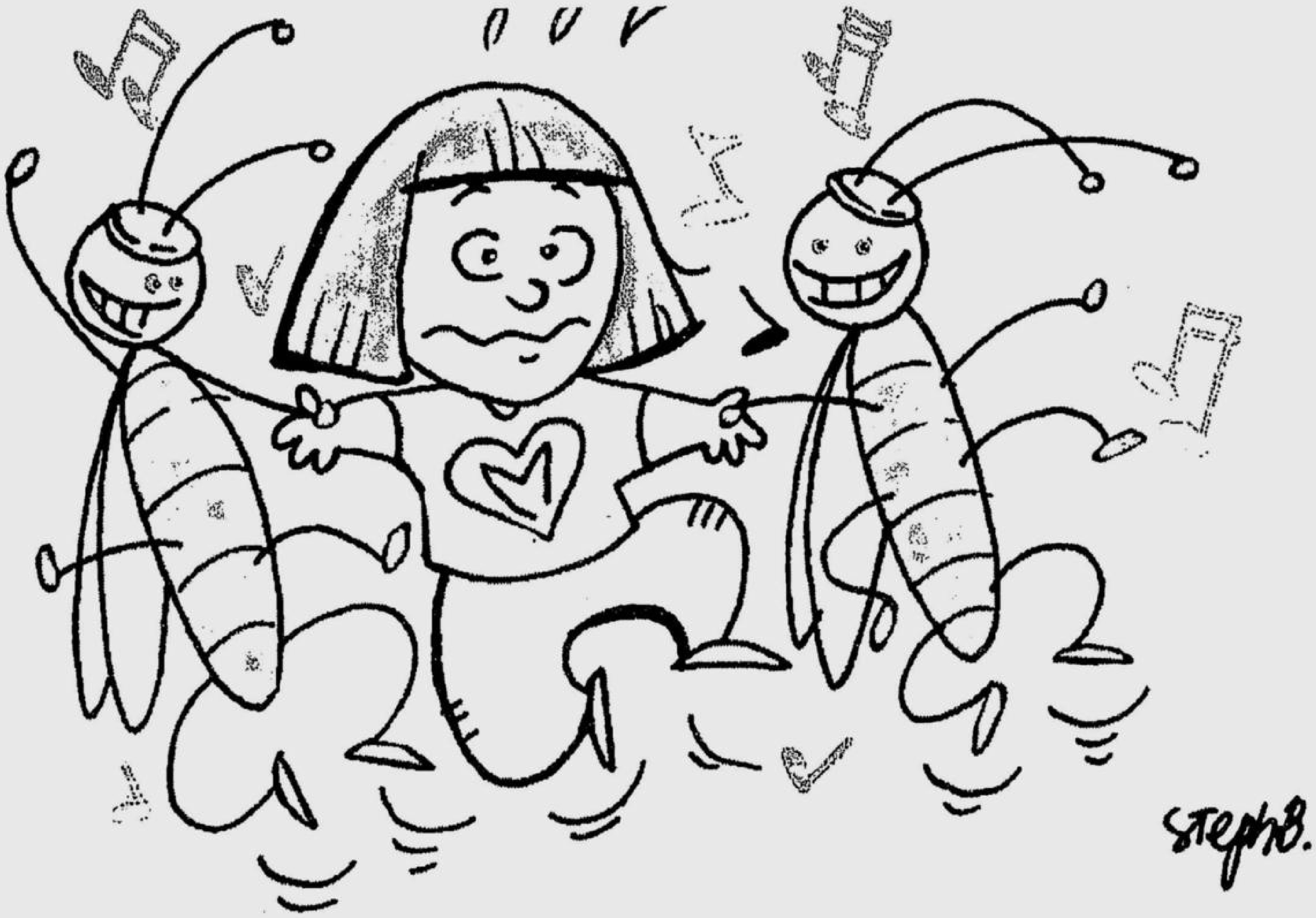
ith the story."
said gladly.

"Once there was a girl who was very messy
With herself, with her things she was untidy
She had no friends to play with
Except cockroaches you'd want to get rid of
One day the cockroaches ate her
Mary, do you still want to be messy like her?"

Mary said, "No, I don't want to be eaten
by cockroaches,
I will start cleaning up this mess
I will be now clean and tidy
So I will have more friends to play with happily."

From then on, she kept her room tidy and clean
Now, I can say it's a better place to live in
She not only a good girl but neat and tidy too
And she got more friends to play with, too!

Science High School.
ws where everything is.



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CHESSMATE

The queen might be powerful and hard to give up,
but good chess players know what really counts

By Eline Santos

IF he could be a chess piece, Erickson Miranda would rather be the king, "because without the king, you lose. All the other pieces are useless," he says.

And with the game's goal clear in his head, 12-year-old Erickson has been winning several medals in various chess competitions.

Some of his wins include a bronze medal in the 1999 Milo Little Olympics , a silver medal in the 2000 Parañaque Division Championship (individual category), and gold medals in the Bagong Parañaque Private School Association (BAPSA) individual and team categories. His team also took home the gold in the Parañaque Division Championship.

Erickson picked up chess on his own. "I watched my classmates playing chess." He also read chess books.

He enjoys playing with upperclassman Jayem Quiazon, also from Manresa School, because "he's good," Erickson explains. "We egg each other on."

What does he do when he loses a game?

"*Ok lang po. Babawi na lang sa susunod,*" he says undaunted. He advises people to be a good sport when playing.

Chess is not the only game Erickson plays.

He is also into volleyball. He was so good he got the 'Best in Sports' award the school gave out last year, as well as several silver medals during their intramurals.

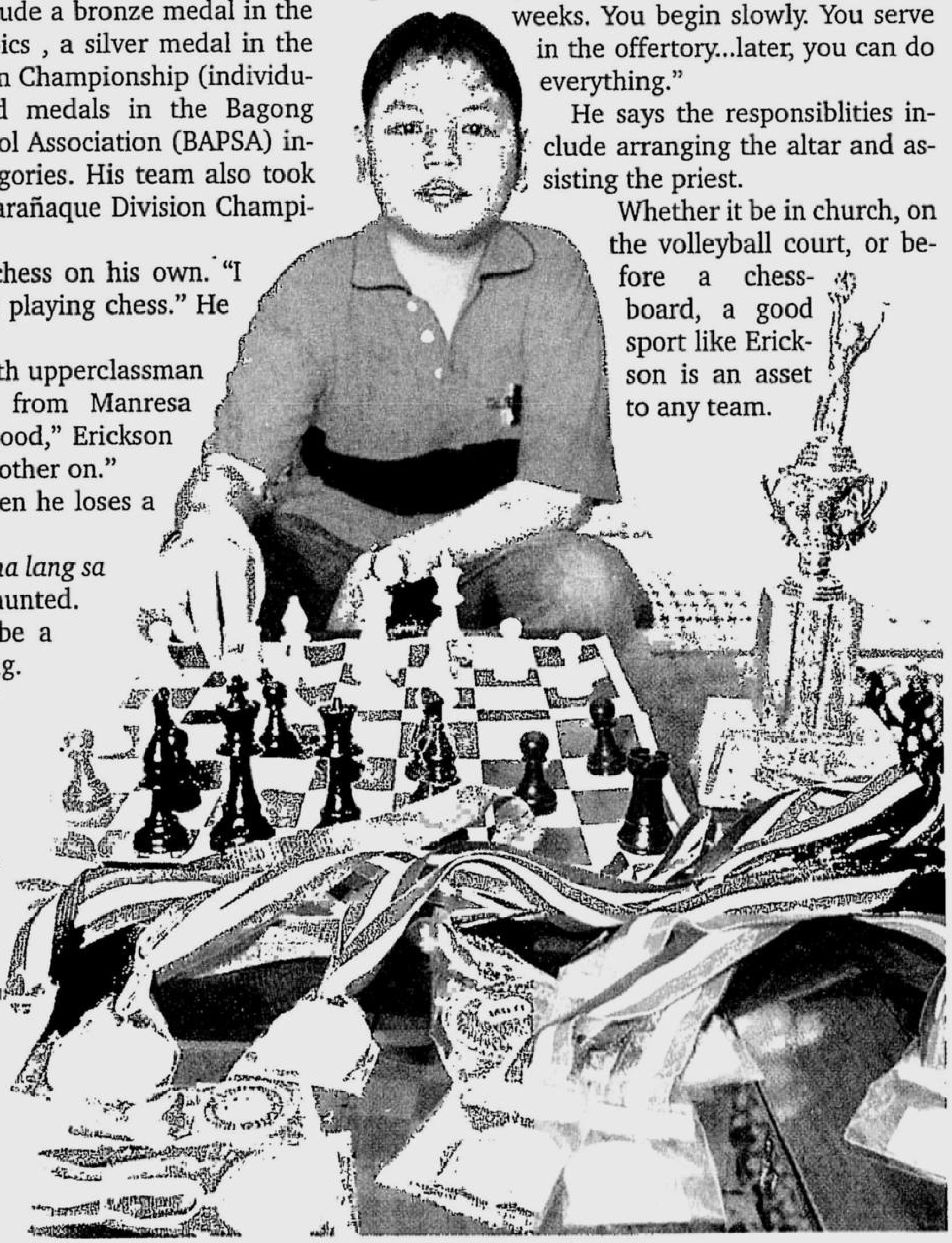
Knight of the Altar

Twice a week, Erickson serves as a sacristan at the Jesus the Divine Healer Parish in Tahanan Village.

Erickson describes the process of becoming an altar boy. "First you observe for two to three weeks. You begin slowly. You serve in the offertory...later, you can do everything."

He says the responsiblities include arranging the altar and assisting the priest.

Whether it be in church, on the volleyball court, or before a chessboard, a good sport like Erickson is an asset to any team.



CHESS BOOTY. Erickson sometimes brings one of his three chess sets to school... and sometimes he comes home with a medal. BETOY JOHNSON

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ______________________

and studies at ______________________

Her/his contact number is: ______________________

Sender's Name: ______________________

Sender's Age & School: ______________________

Sender's Address: ______________________

Sender's Contact No.: ______________________

CASIO

New
THE POWERPUFF GIRLS
FRUTIPS
THE POWERPUFF GIRLS
CARTOON NETWORK
CartoonNetwork.com
40g/กรัม
Gula Rasa Buah
Perisa Buah
Soft Chew Candy
FRUTIPS®
Life's More Fun When It's Fruity
FRUTIPS
New!
FRUTIPS
Jelly Bean
FRUTIPS
FRUTIPS

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(s02)

Wish I had *this* uncle

By Maria Zobel Certeza

HOW cool is it to have a painter for an uncle? Wish I had one. And meeting Tito Orville Tiamson made me wish even harder.

One of the youngest artists in Angono, Rizal, his gallery has the feel of a marketplace.

He has a painting of three old women selling fruits. There are people all around them. Everyone is smiling.

Another shows an old woman hawking candles. I asked him about these people and places and he told me that they were from his memories of their store in the market. He saw these people every morning when they opened their store.

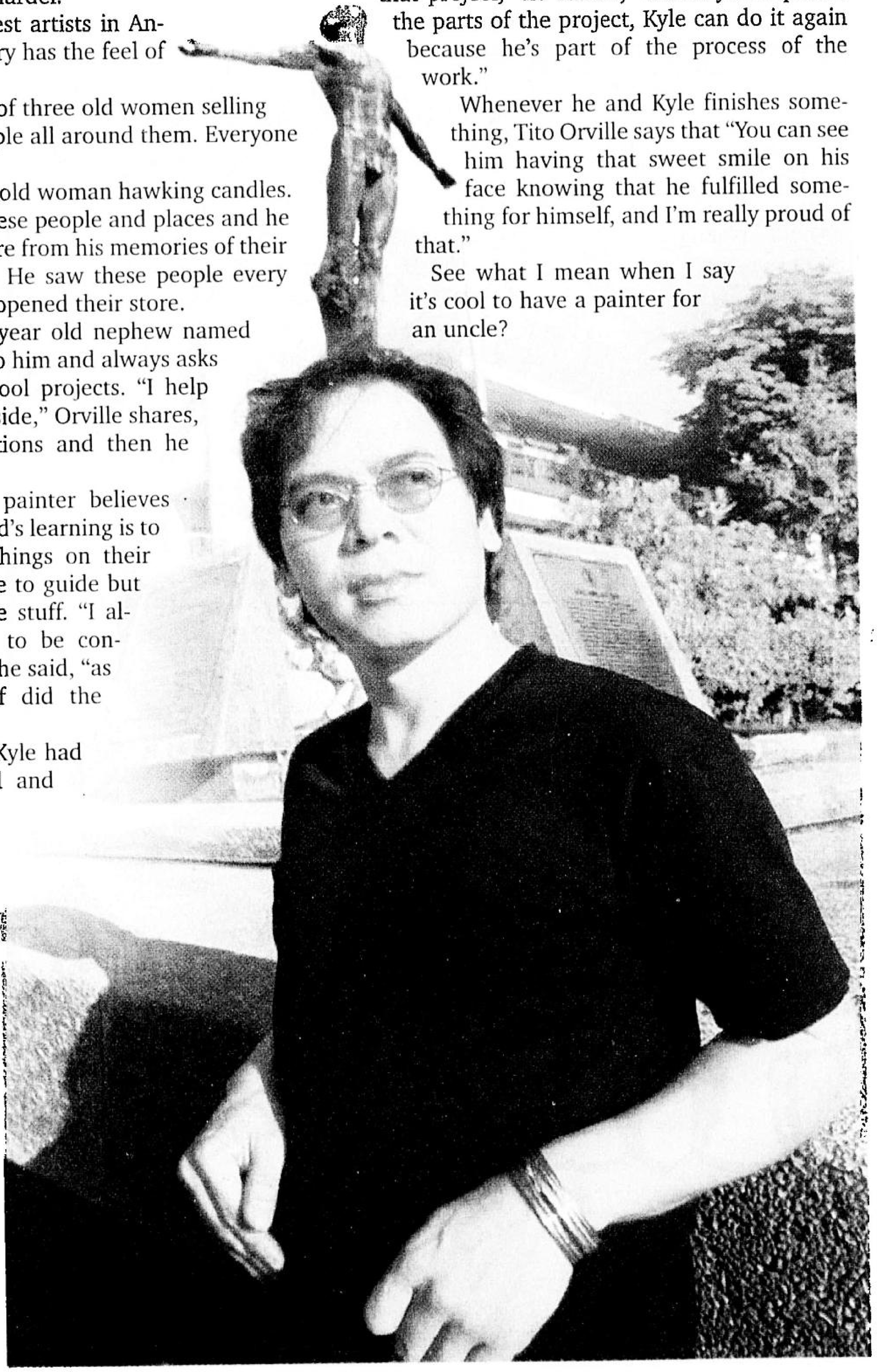
Orville has a ten-year old nephew named Kyle. Kyle looks up to him and always asks him for help in school projects. "I help him on the creative side," Orville shares, "I give him suggestions and then he does the work."

This 36-year-old painter believes that the key to a child's learning is to let them discover things on their own. He's only there to guide but not to do the whole stuff. "I always tell Kyle not to be conscious of his work," he said, "as long as he himself did the work."

He recalls when Kyle had a project in school and they had to make a bulb light up using a battery. And since they had to hurry, they improvised materials for the project, making use of illustration boards and wires. "We used masking tape for that project," he smiles, "and if you separate the parts of the project, Kyle can do it again because he's part of the process of the work."

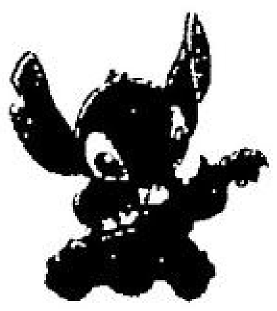
Whenever he and Kyle finishes something, Tito Orville says that "You can see him having that sweet smile on his face knowing that he fulfilled something for himself, and I'm really proud of that."

See what I mean when I say it's cool to have a painter for an uncle?



ORVILLE the painter, er, uncle, er, painter and uncle, believes that kids have to discover things on their own so they'll learn, but with a little help, of course.

JOHNNY VILLENA



Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

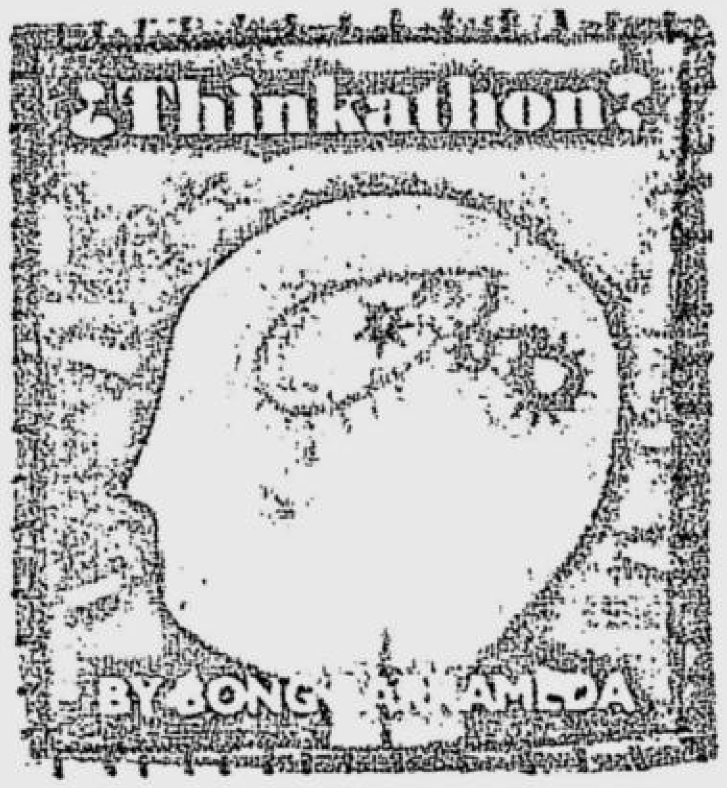
A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _______________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my _______________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)_______________;
2)_______________;
3)_______________;
4)_______________;
5)_______________;

My nominee lives a _______________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at _______________.
By the way, I'm _______________.
I'm ________ years old.
My address is _______________.
You may call me at _______________.



CAN YOU NAME THE SUPERHERO?

SURE, you'd know Spiderman if he crawled down from the roof of your house, but what about the ordinary name he goes by under normal conditions? In this week's quiz, see if you can match the superhero with the name that's on his or her ID card.

1. Spiderman
   A. Peter Parker
   B. Peter Piper
   C. Peter Power

2. Superman
   X. Clark Field
   Y. Clark Kent
   Z. Clark Lane

3. Batman
   A. Bruce Banner
   B. Bruce Springsteen
   C. Bruce Wayne

4. Wonder Woman
   X. Diana Prince
   Y. Diana Spencer
   Z. Diana Ross

5. The Phantom
   A. Kit Falk
   B. Kit Walker
   C. Kit Carson

6. Green Lantern
   X. Alan Luster
   Y. Alan Alda
   Z. Alan Scott

7. Supergirl
   A. Linda Lee
   B. Linda Ronstadt
   C. Linda Marshall

8. The Flash
   X. Wally Wonka
   Y. Wally West
   Z. Wally Williams

9. The Shadow
   A. Lamont Lawrence
   B. Lamont Smith
   C. Lamont Cranston

10. Mighty Thor
   X. Don Johnson
   Y. Don Blake
   Z. Don Adams

11. Iron Man
   A. Tony Steel
   B. Tony Strong
   C. Tony Stark

12. Batgirl
   X. Barbara Grayson
   Y. Barbara Gordon
   Z. Barbara Marley

Answers:

1. A
2. Y
3. C
4. X
5. B
6. Z (In the modern version, he's Hal Jordan)
7. A
8. Y
9. C
10. Y
11. C
12. Y

Ratings:

11-12

excellent!
9-10

good!
6-8

I GOT to interview fans of the Powerpuff Girls like these two cute kids in costume.

Reporter... (from page 5)

work Reporter.

Even though I didn't win yet, I was already so excited and nervous! My mom and I went there Saturday morning. When we arrived, we were ushered into the conference room where the other kids were already waiting for their names to be called. We spent the entire time reading magazines and it turned out that I'm the last one for the morning.

When they called me (at long last!), I stood up and prepared myself. I said a short prayer and gathered my courage. I was a little nervous but surprisingly I felt a bit assured too.

I went into a room with Powerpuff Girls posters behind me and bright lights in front of me. A woman asked me questions while a video camera recorded me.

Afterwards, I felt satisfied with my performance. Sure, I was a bit disappointed I failed to answer the last question, but I think I did ok. They added that they will send all audition tapes to Cartoon Network Hong Kong and they'll be the ones who'll pick the winner. I just prayed and hoped for the best.

Hurray!

A few days later I got a call. I GOT THE PART! I felt so excited and happy at the same time! I had to stop myself from jumping and making noises while the person at the other end of the line explained it all to me.

First I had to go back to their office on July 6. Next, the movie premiere wherein I'll be the reporter was to be on July 7 at the Robinson's Galleria Movie World Cinema 2. They faxed me the contract and my script. Good thing we didn't have classes on July 3, 4 and 5 so I had enough time to finish my school work and memorize my script.

But last June 30 I got sick! I had a cold and a sore throat. Believe me, I never was this determined to get well. I did everything necessary for a speedy recovery. I knew I wouldn't forgive myself if I missed the rare opportunity. And good thing, I did get well. Whew!

June 6 came. My dad and I went to Perceptions' conference room on a rainy morning.

Reporter/ p. 15

THE LUNCH BOX

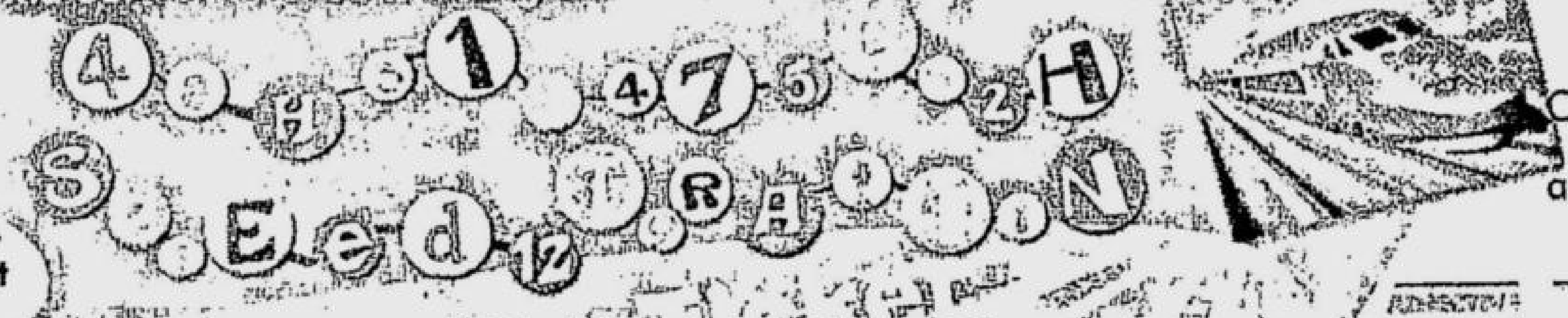
by Katrina B. Villa

SOMETHING TO DO
Next time you ride a car, bus, jeep or train, find out how fast it's going. Compare it to the speed of the TGV!

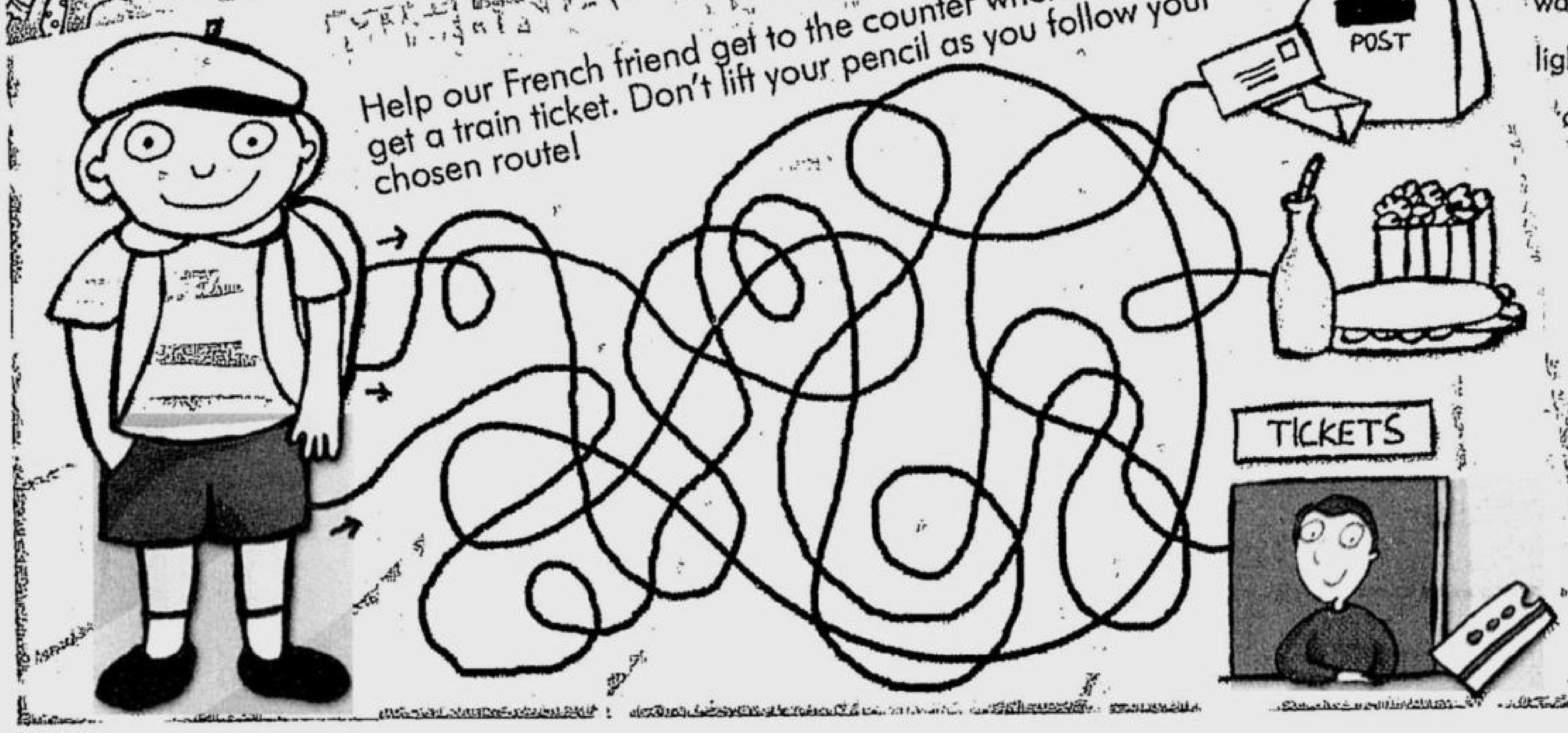
ALL ABOARD!

The French TGV currently holds the world record for the fastest train. It reached a speed of 515 kilometers an hour (kph). However, for safety reasons, when it carries passengers it travels an average of 254.5 kph.

TGV stands for Train a Grande Vitesse. Remove all the numbers below to find out what it means in English!



Help our French friend get to the counter where he can get a train ticket. Don't lift your pencil as you follow your chosen route!



BLANK OUT!

Have a friend fill in the blanks before you read aloud the entire story to her/him.

________'s Horror Story
NAME

One dark, stormy _____, I was _____
NOUN -ing VERB

around my _____ house when I saw a
ADJECTIVE

_____ _____ I never _____ before. So I
ADJECTIVE NOUN VERB, PAST TENSE

opened the _____ door, and _____ inside. It
ADJECTIVE VERB, PAST TENSE

was _____ and it smelled like _____. Suddenly,
ADJECTIVE NOUN

lightning flashed and I _____! There was a pair
VERB, PAST TENSE

of _____ _____ _____ at me! I was
COLOR PLURAL NOUN -ing VERB

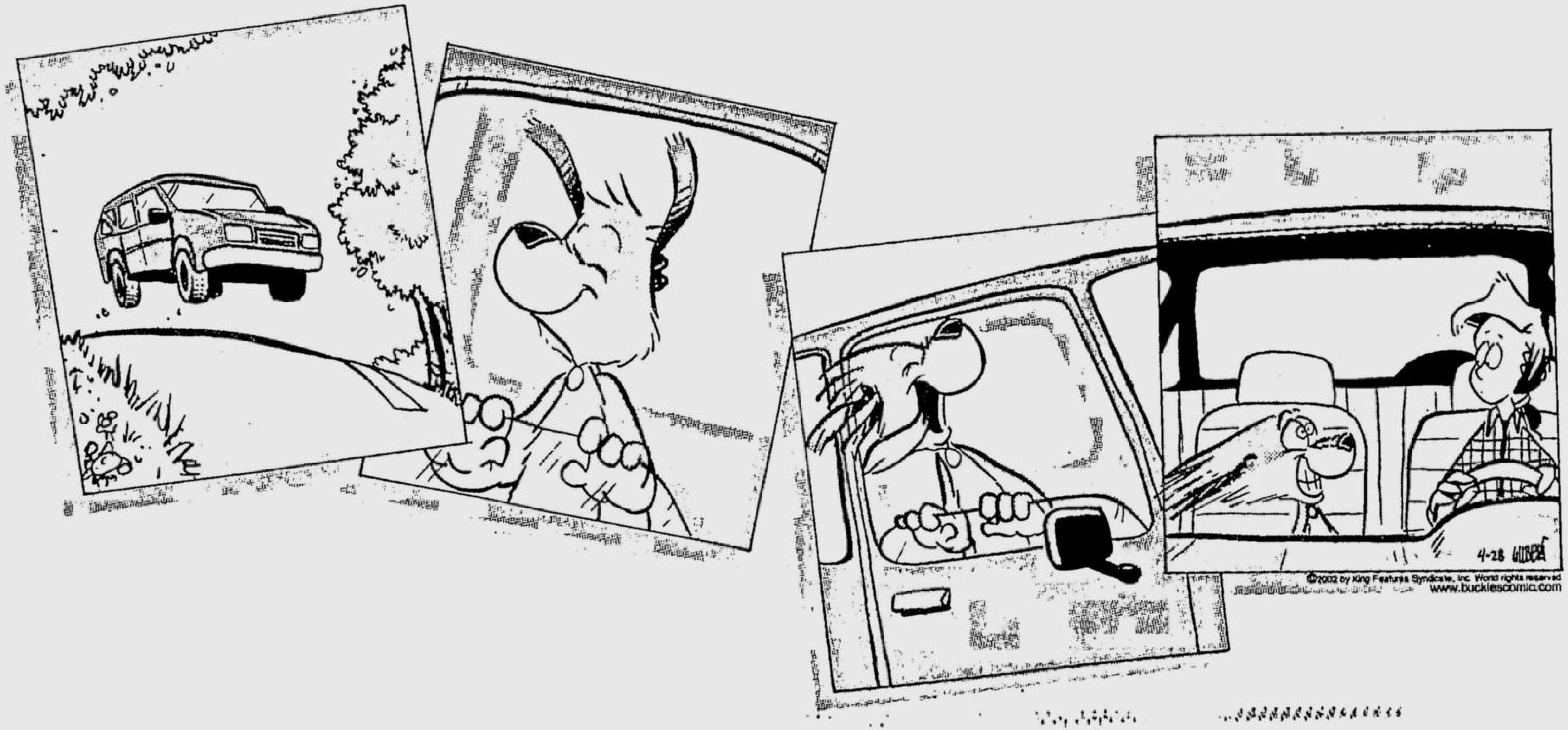
about to _____ when suddenly the lights
VERB

went on! It was only _____, my pet _____.
NAME NOUN

Boy, did I feel _____!. THE END.
ADJECTIVE

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



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JUNIOR INQUIRER

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2002

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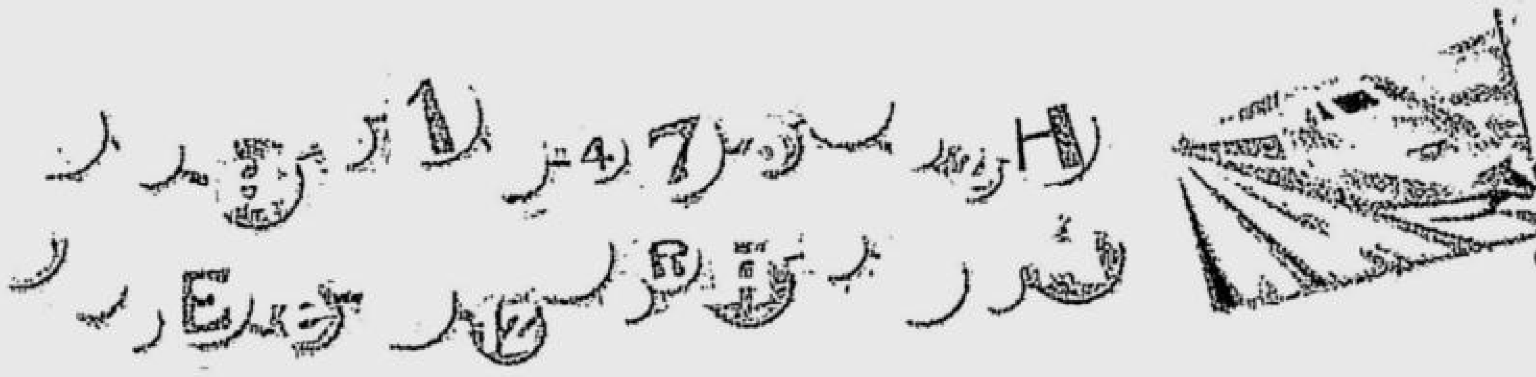

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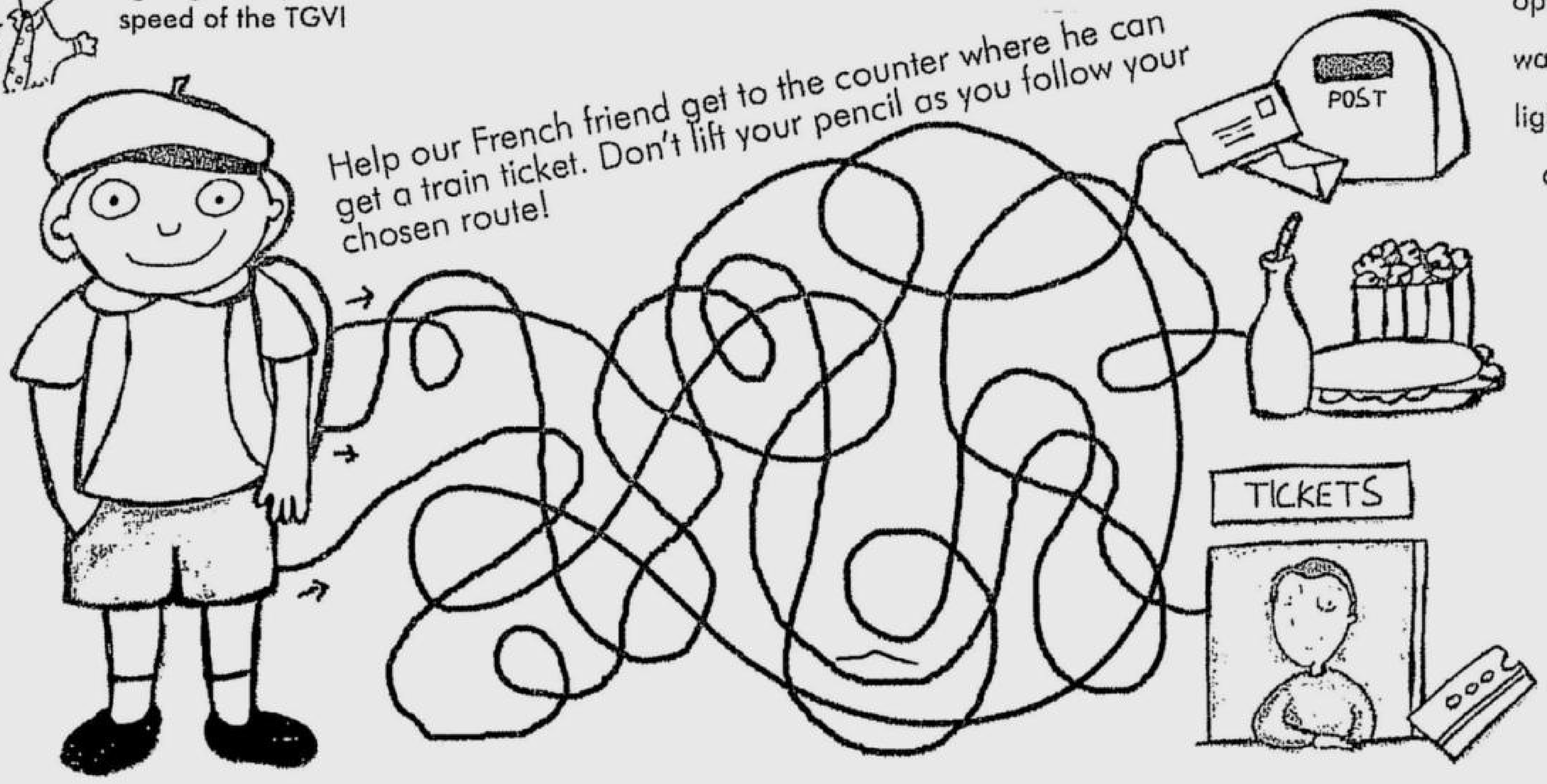

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VERB
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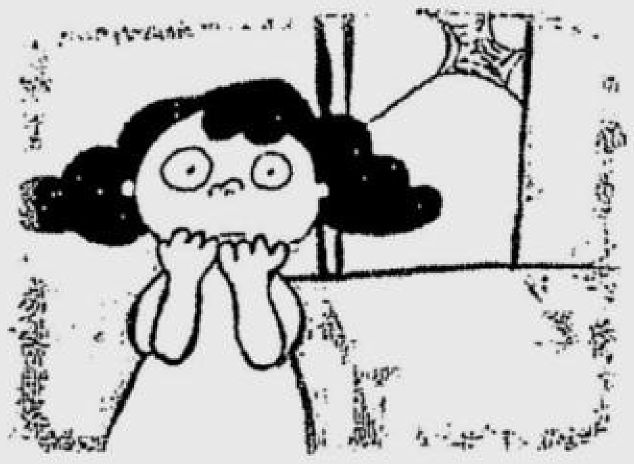
Boy, did I feel ______! THE END.
ADJECTIVE



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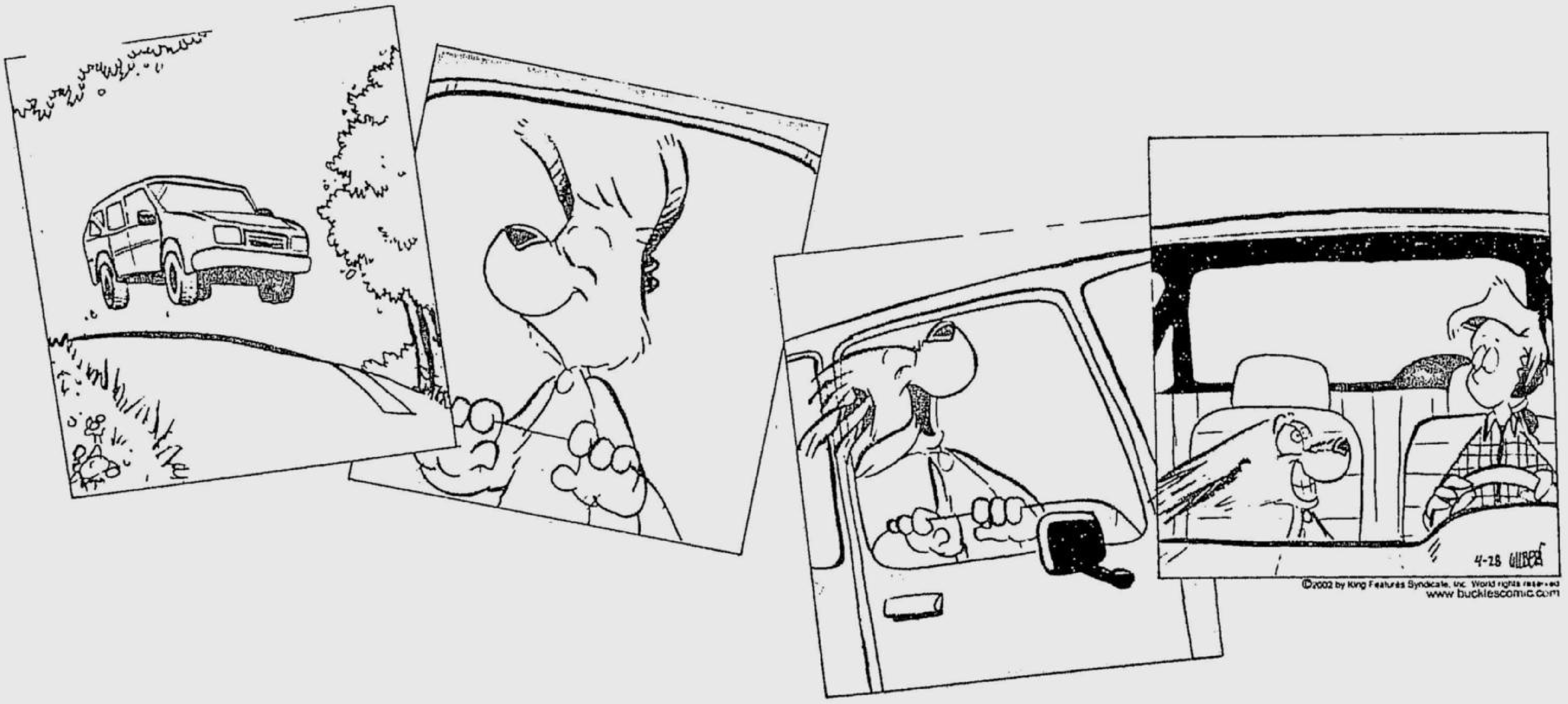

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RETAKE OF THE PRECEDING FRAME

Reporter... (from page 13)

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After that, they gave me two advanced screening tickets for the movie for that night. They said I wouldn't be able to watch the movie on the premiere because I'll be busy doing other things. So, at 5:30 p.m. that same day, my Tita Ging and I went to Robinson's Galleria and met with Ellen. Then, the three of us watched the movie.

I have to say that the movie is surprisingly good. It cleared out many questions about the Powerpuff Girls and the people of Townsville.

After the movie, the three of us ate and talked at Café Mediterranean until around 9:30 p.m. It was a perfect ending to a very good day. I hoped that tomorrow would turn out the same!

It's THE day!

I went to Robinson's Galleria Movie World with my whole family at 12 noon. I met with all the crew and the people who were to help me that day.

First, I changed to a Powerpuff Girls shirt and shoes and had my hair and make-up done until around 2:30 p.m. Then, it was show time! I first received my prizes from Cartoon Network: three bikes, V-Tech, and stuffed toys. Then, I delivered my lines on cam as a Cartoon Network reporter. Before the movie started, I hosted with Bianca and Justin!

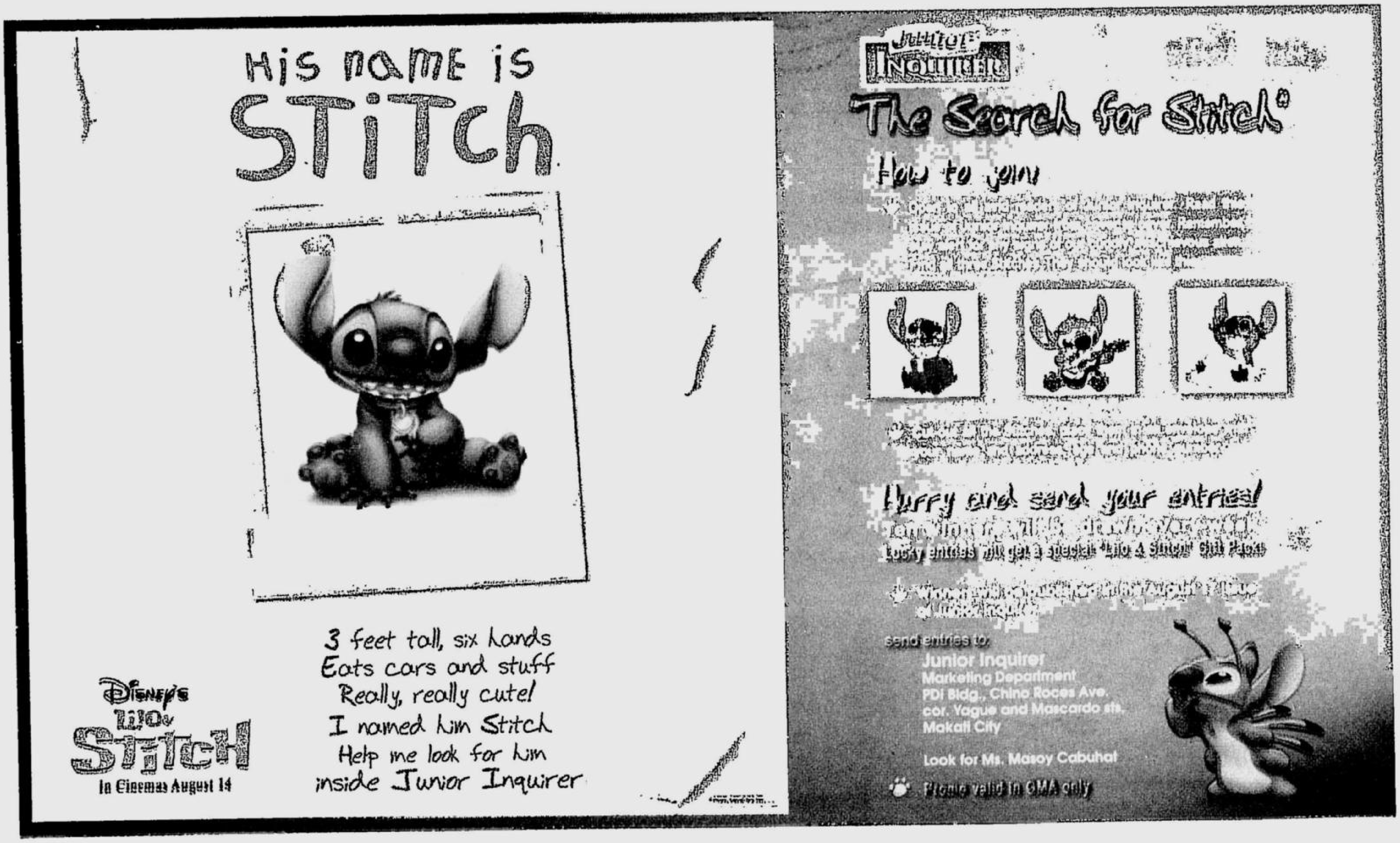
While the movie was being shown, Ellen and I took a 30-minute break. We went out, relaxed for awhile, talked and ate donuts. At 5:30 p.m. they needed me again. So, outside the cinema I again delivered my lines and interviewed two kids until the movie ended. I then had a chance to interview a few celebrities! Among them were Shaina Magdayao and Franco Mabanta (from MYX). I also interviewed a few adults, some cute kids wearing Powerpuff Girl costumes and many more!

We finally finished at 7:40 p.m. I bade goodbye to everyone. Ellen and Yazmin were going back to Hong Kong and they told me the event will be aired on Cartoon Network on July 13.

It was a truly memorable experience. At the end of the day I was so happy I could almost cry! Even though I was quite tired, I had so much fun! I felt fulfilled and satisfied. I would be glad to relive the wonderful experience all over again if I had a chance to. I would really like to thank everyone who helped me make this happen. To Yazmin, Ellen, the two Kidlats, Cherry from Guide, Armand, the girl holding the idiot board, the audio guy and everyone!

I can't think of appropriate words to describe all the feelings I've felt. I know I'll never, ever forget those times and the interesting people I've met. I feel very blessed, because not everyone can live their dream, even just for one day. It was a perfect day that will stay with me forever.

And trust me, if you have faith in God, plus lots of hard work and determination—wishes do come true!



send entries to:
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Marketing Department
PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave.
cor. Yague and Mascardo sts.
Makati City

Look for Ms. Masoy Cabuhat

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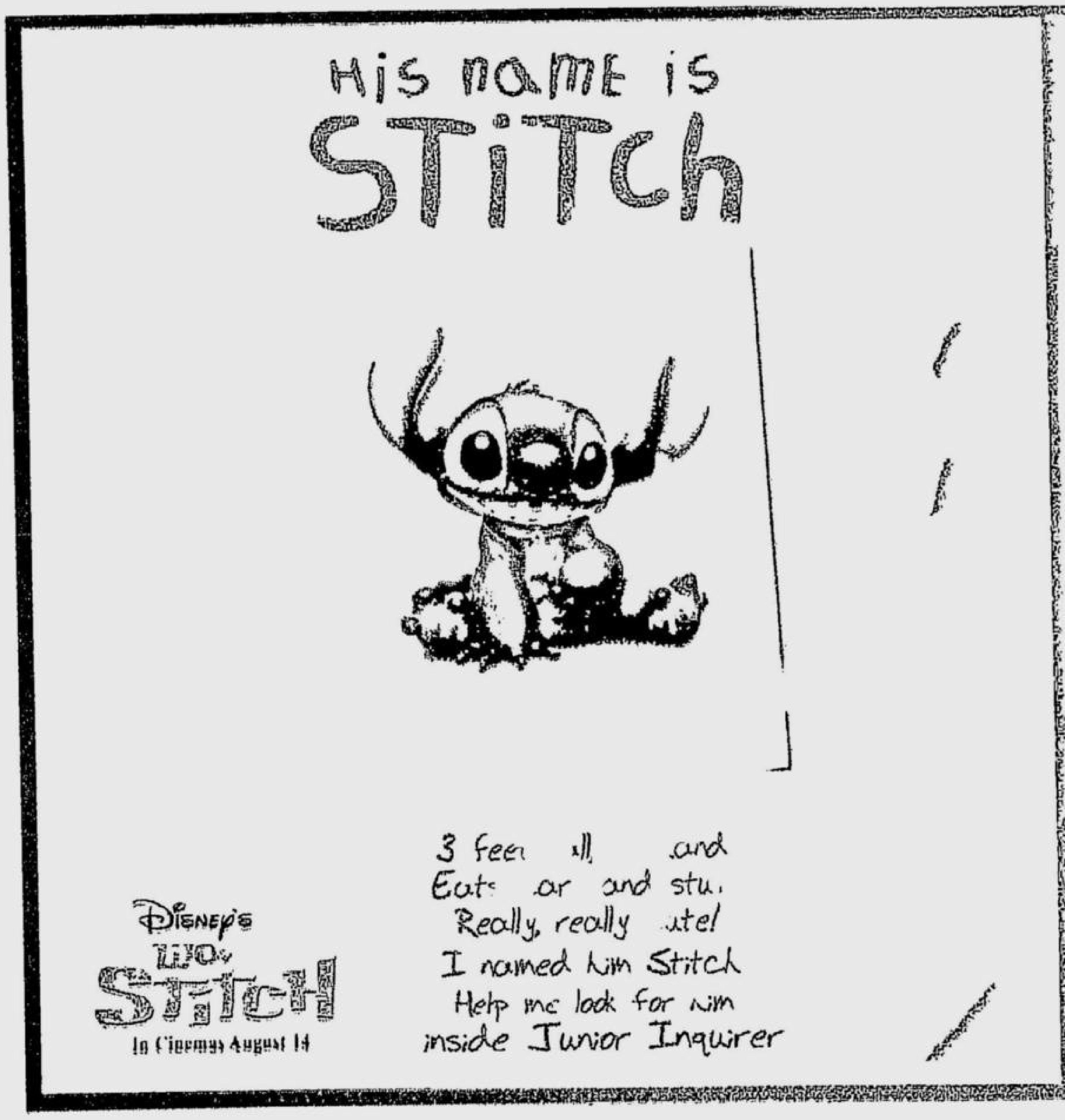

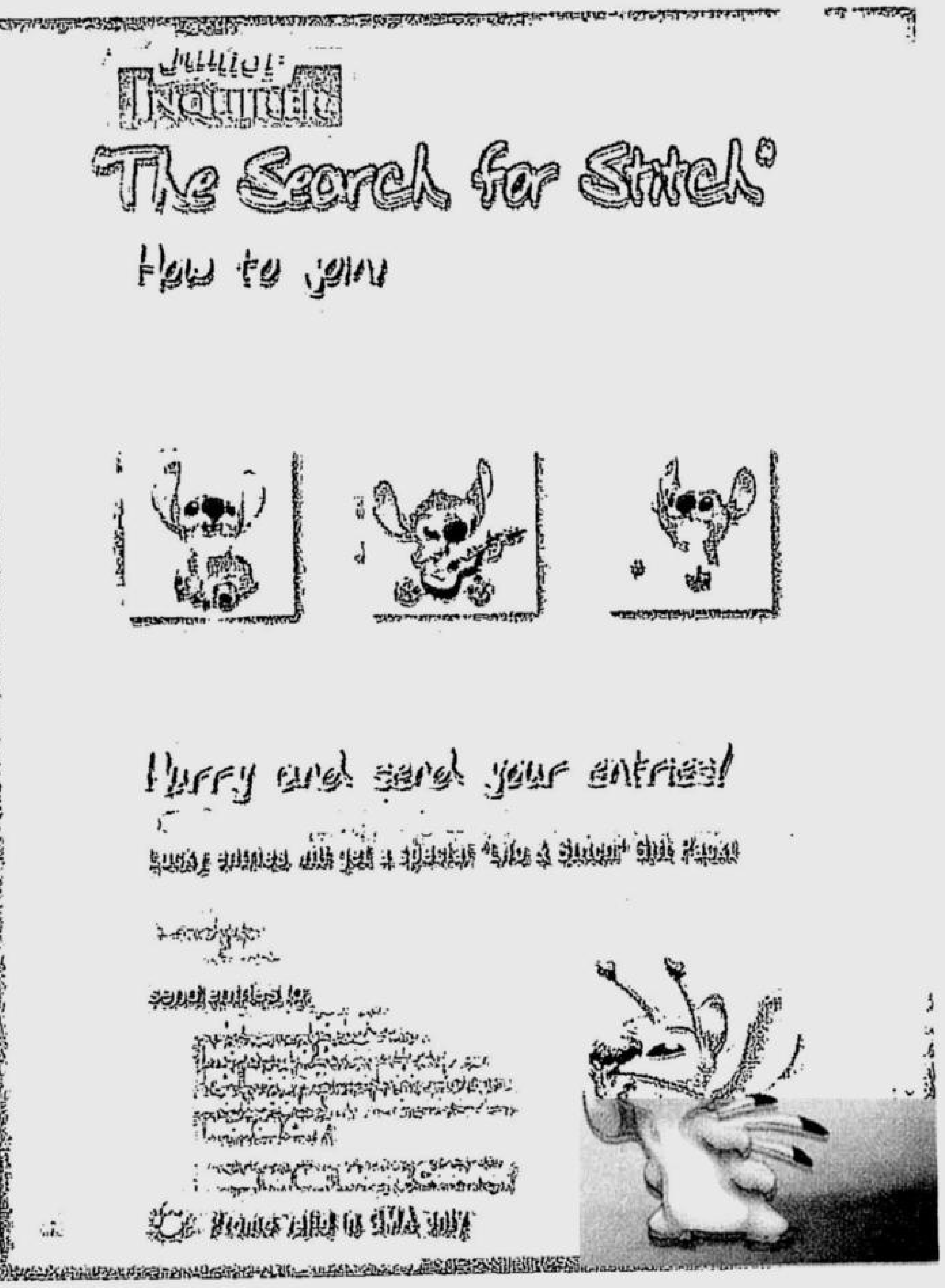

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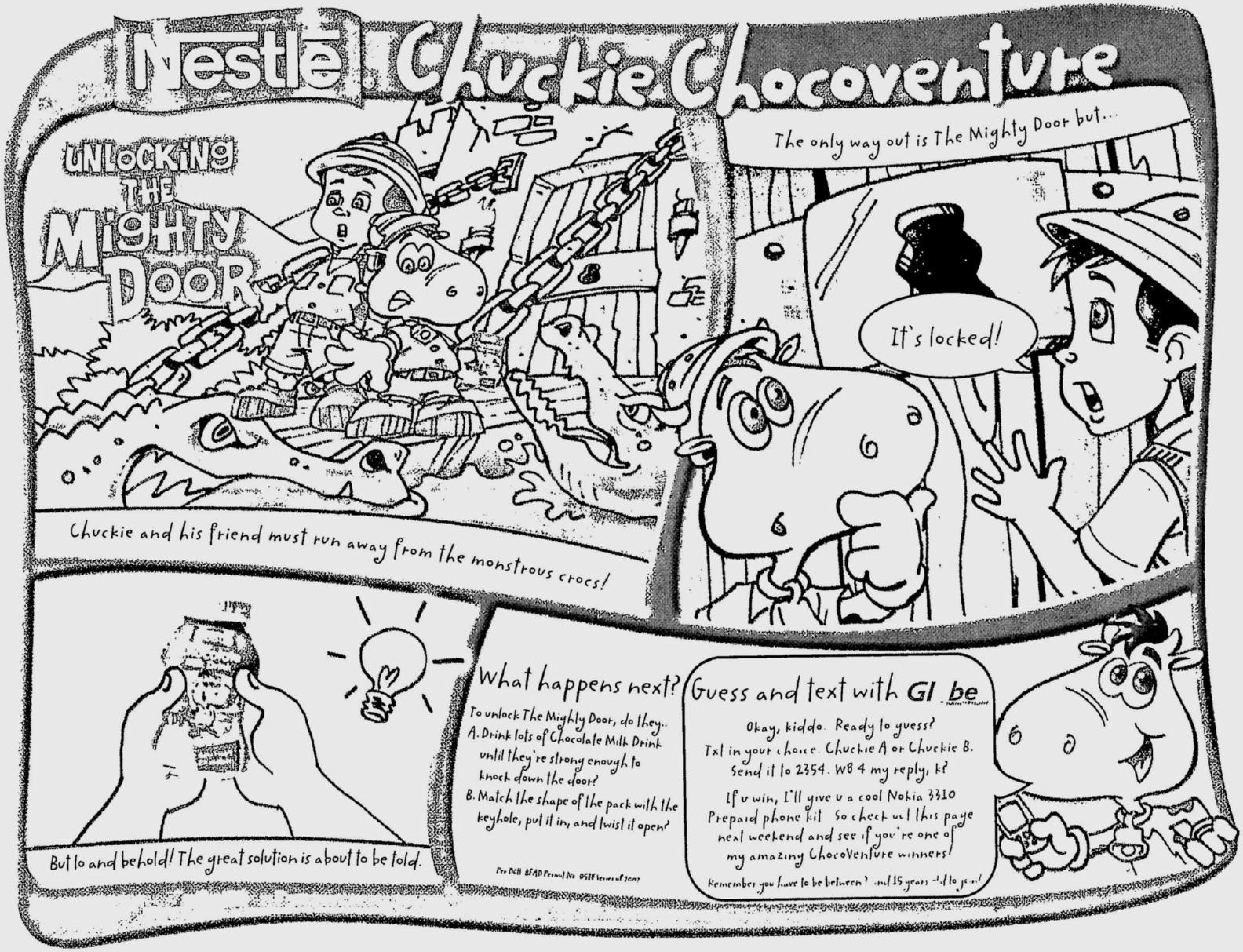
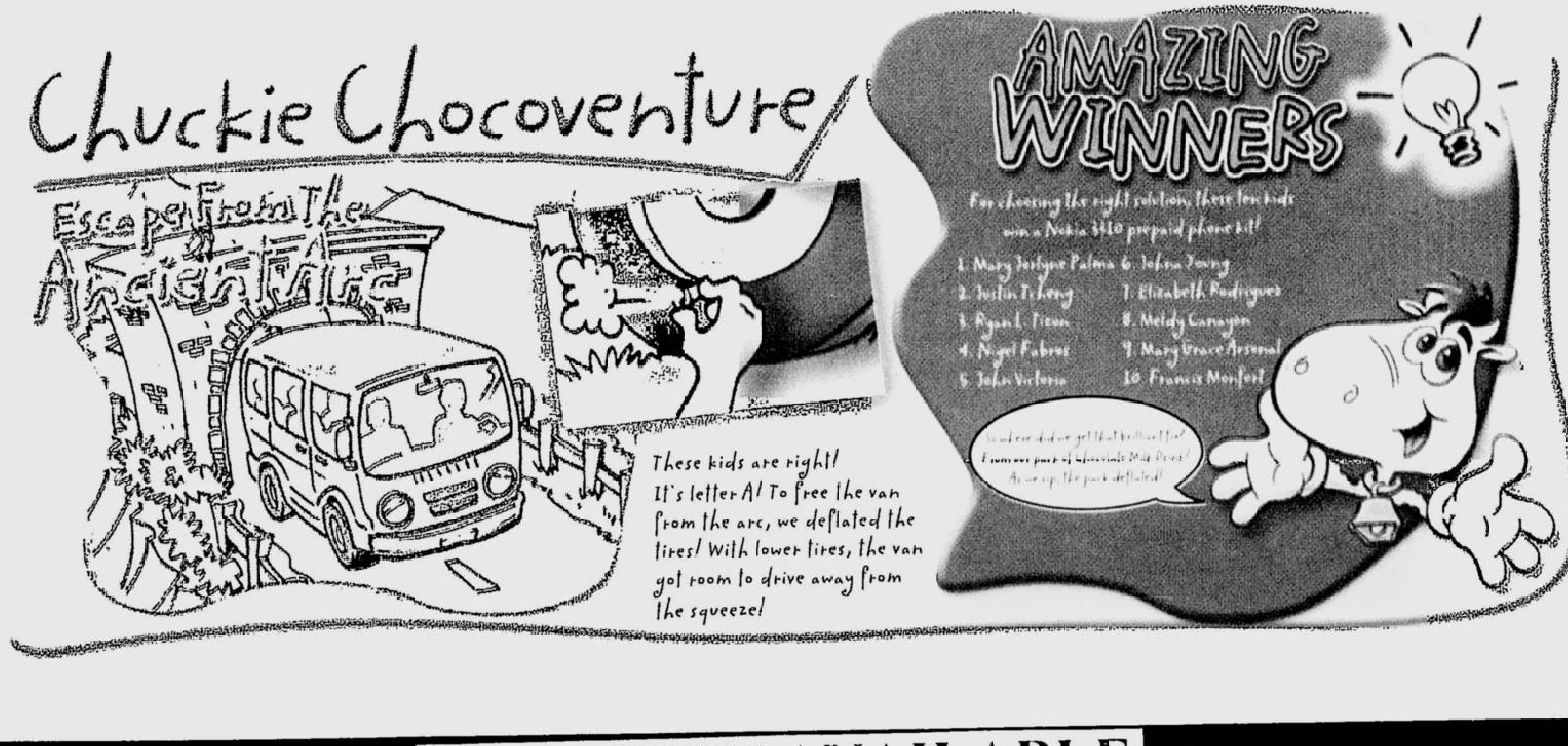

Nestlé
Chuckie Chocoventure
Unlocking The Mighty Door
Chuckie and his friend must run away from the monstrous crocs!
The only way out is The Mighty Door but...
It's locked!
But lo and behold! The great solution is about to be told.
What happens next?
To unlock The Mighty Door, do they..
A. Drink lots of Chocolate Milk Drink until they're strong enough to knock down the door?
B. Match the shape of the pack with the keyhole, put it in, and twist it open?
Per DOH BFAD Permit No. 0518 Series of 2001
Guess and text with Globe
Okay, kiddo. Ready to guess? Txt in your choice. Chuckie A or Chuckie B. Send it to 2354. W8 4 my reply, k?
If u win, I'll give u a cool Nokia 3310 Prepaid phone kit. So check out this page next weekend and see if you're one of my amazing ChocoVenture winners!
Remember you have to be between 7 and 15 years old to join!


Chuckie Chocoventure
Escape From The Ancient Arc
These kids are right! It's letter A! To free the van from the arc, we deflated the tires! With lower tires, the van got room to drive away from the squeeze!
AMAZING WINNERS
For choosing the right solution, these ten kids win a Nokia 3310 prepaid phone kit!
1. Mary Jerlyne Palma
2. Justin T. Cheng
3. Ryan L. Ticon
4. Nigel Fabros
5. John Victoria
6. Jolina Young
7. Elizabeth Rodriguez
8. Melody Canayon
9. Mary Grace Arsenal
10. Francis Monfort
So where did we get that brilliant [illegible]? From our pack of Chocolate Milk Drink! As we sip, the pack deflated!

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